Mac FORMAT ISSUE 203 January 2009

Easy Mac upgrades ● Do more with iMovie ● Word processors Group Test ● Get fit for 2009 ● Share photos between Macs

Printed in the UK

Mac FORMAT

All your Apple needs

ISSUE 203 January 2009

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Add features to your Finder
- Master transitions in Keynote
- Save time in Apple Mail

AND MUCH MORE!

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

Packed full of Mac tips & tricks!

Do more with iMovie

Get editing help from our experts

Get results in iPhoto

Learn how to enhance faces today

New reviews this issue

- Nikon Coolpix p6000
- FileMaker Bento 2
- Logitech Pure-Fi Anytime

Easy Mac upgrades

ENHANCE YOUR MAC'S POWER!

- Upgrade your hard drive
- Add memory in minutes
- Fit a brand new battery

LIGHTROOM 2
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MacBook

YOUR COMPLETE UPGRADE GUIDE!
Includes all new MacBooks

INVESTIGATED

Get fit for 2009!

Nike+ iPod tried and tested

HANDS-ON

Photo sharing

Share photos between Macs

REVIEWED

ToCA Race Driver

Take your Mac out for a spin!

DISC INSIDE!

- Revolution Media 3.0 – full programming app!
- OS X video training

FULL CONTENTS P128

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Welcome

Let me be among the first to wish you a Happy New Year! Yes, while this issue of *MacFormat* is on sale we'll all transition seamlessly into 2009. Where did the year go? It was another good one for Apple, of course, with record Mac sales and upgrades across the line. We got new iPods, an upgraded iPhone 3G, new MacBooks and, of course, the lovely new MacBook Air, the world's thinnest notebook. Now we're all wondering what 2009 will bring. Will there be a few surprises at Macworld Expo in January this year? The first touch-flush iToilet? A new battery-powered iCar, or even something as simple as a Mac with a Blu-ray drive? Send me your predictions in an email and we'll print the best!

> "We're all wondering what 2009 will bring – the first touch-flush iToilet?"

But I digress. With this issue of *MacFormat* I'm hoping to finally bust the myth that Macs aren't upgradeable. Sure, a lot of Macs, like the iMac, for example, are very restrictive on what you can upgrade, but Apple's latest MacBooks are the most upgradeable notebooks it has produced to date – the new unibody aluminium enclosure has been designed specifically to give you easy access to the RAM and hard disk, so why not upgrade them? Taking the back off your Mac can be a scary prospect, but it's not as hard as you may think. Our feature this month, starting on page 28, shows you that anyone can do it. We go into lots of detail on how to upgrade the various Mac models and show you exactly how it's done. It's essential reading for any Mac owner, as upgrading your RAM is one of the simplest and most useful upgrades you can ever make.

Enjoy your New Year festivities and I'll see you again on 7 January with more from the world of Apple!

email: gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
DISCOVER HOW TO...
Easy Mac upgrades
ENHANCE YOUR MAC'S POWER!
83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE
Do more with iMovie
Get results in iPhoto
New reviews this issue
Get fit for 2009!
Photo sharing
ToCA Race Driver
techradar.com

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Turn to p68 now!

All your Apple needs

Contents

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!
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see p68

22

My month with
the Nike+ Sport Kit

Can the iPod touch get you fit?

In this issue...

Start up	6
Win: Altec Lansing speakers	12
Me and my Mac	14
I use my Mac for…	16
Letters	20
Nike+ Sport kit	22
Subscribe to MacFormat	26, 68
Easy Mac upgrades	28
How to…	43
Create a digital home	70
Q&A	74
Reviews	81
iPhone apps	100
Group Test: word processors	104
Buyers' Guide	110
Mac User Groups	120
Games	124
DVD pages	128

Easy Mac upgrades

ENHANCE YOUR MAC'S POWER!

- Upgrade your hard drive
- Add memory in minutes
- Fit a brand new battery

YOUR COMPLETE UPGRADE GUIDE! Includes all new MacBooks

28

104

Word processors

Six of the best OS X apps put to the test!

70

Get a digital home

Learn how to stream media between Macs

ISSUE 203 January 2009

On your disc!

Three full apps, new trials, shareware, video training and more!
See page 128

MacFormat Disc
Issue 203 | January 2009
Future
DVD
3 FULL PROGRAMS
Revolution Media 3.0
Full version of the easy Mac programming application
macVCR 1.0
Record movies of your on-screen actions and play them back
PLUS:
Demos of the latest Mac games, including ToCA Race Driver 3 & much more!

How to… 43-67

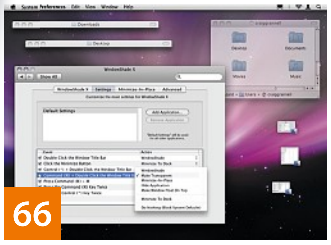
WIN! ALTEC LANSING SPEAKERS WORTH £600 SEE P12

44 Squeeze more in

Expand your shots in *Photoshop Elements*

Historical Arc

52 Master Keynote transitions



66 Shade your OS X 10.5 windows

Plus...

Edit using iMovie '08	48
Animate slides in Keynote	52
Tame OS X's Launch Services	50
Turbo charge Mail	55
Exploit TextEdit	60
Save energy and protect files	62

Emiliano Rodriguez / Alamy

Q&A 74-79

All your Mac-related queries answered by our experts

74 Fix G3 Power Mac booting

77 Keep iChat logged in

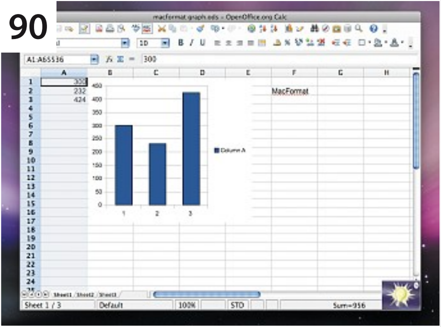
And much more!

MAC USER GROUPS

Turn to page 120 for our listing

Reviews 81-109

The best independent reviews


90
MacFormat

New version 3 of the free *OpenOffice.org*

Logitech Pure-Fi Anytime

LaCie 4big Quadra

Reviewed this issue…

HARDWARE

Nikon Coolpix P6000	82
Amacom exSecure 160GB	83
Logitech Z-5	83
MAXPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless USB 2.0 Stick Adapter & Extension Cradle	84
MAXPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless Router	84
Logitech Pure-Fi Anytime	85
Knomo Serra Trolley	86
Gear4 ProControl AV	86
LaCie 4big Quadra	87

SOFTWARE

OpenOffice.org 3	90
Marketcircle Inc. Billings 3.0.3	92
Filemaker Bento 2	93
Yuuguu	94
equinux CoverScout 3	94
Britannica 2009 Ultimate Edition	95
Flock 2.0	96
Ohanaware Funtastic Photos	96

GROUP TEST

Word processors	104

Games 124

Reviews of Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones, ToCA Race Driver 3, Dream Pinball 3D and more!

Start up

MacFormat brings you all the best of this month's Apple chat

Game on!

Apple takes on Sony and Nintendo with mobile game play

Apple finally has something to offer gamers with its growing library of titles for iPod touch (and iPhone) users, as the company targets a market currently dominated by the Sony PSP and Nintendo DS.

Apple's Vice President of iPod and iPhone Product Marketing, Greg Joswiak, visited the UK last month to talk to technology website TechRadar.com. Pointing to the 1,500 games already at the App Store, he laid the smack down against competitors: "There are already so many games, and as we look at it, to us it really seems this is the future of gameplay. Whereas a lot of these devices [Nintendo DS and Sony PSP] are more in the past."

He pointed out that users of these devices can download new games whenever they like at prices games shipped on physical formats just can't match. "Whereas applications on other devices have to be delivered primarily physically, they cost a lot more," he said.

Apple's attempt to underline its offering for gamers may prove the thin end of the wedge as the company prepares an iPod-like impact on the mobile device markets.

AT&T President, Ralph de la Vega, told Web 2.0 conference attendees: "Before the iPhone wakes you up in the morning with its alarm clock, it will have already loaded all your daily news feeds onto the phone. It will also have already sent a wireless message to your coffee maker to get the coffee ready."

de la Vega went on to suggest the device will be able to lock your doors, start your car, read news to you using test-to-speech, and even translate foreign languages when you make a conference call.

Menu
?
4 1 8 5 9 6 2 3 7
7 3 8 1 9 4
3 9 2 1
1 3 6 7 8 5
9 8 2 6
7 4 5 9 6 3 8 1 2
4 5 3 9
9 3
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05:43
iPod
9:42 AM
2x
36,310
26

"The iPhone and iPod touch may emerge as viable devices in the mobile games market this holiday season"

SNIPPETS

CS demos

Adobe has made trial versions of the applications constituting its latest version of *Creative Suite 4* available for download from the company site. Mac users downloading the trial versions get to use them for 30 days before they expire. Available trials include individual products such as *Photoshop CS4 Extended* alongside complete collections such as the *Creative Suite 4 Master Collection*. Go to www.adobe.com/downloads

PRESIDENT MAC | Obama's Apple

© Getty Images

There's a Mac in the office of the most powerful man on the planet – US President elect Barack Obama is a Mac and iPhone user who keeps in contact with his family using *iChat*.

Newsweek explains First Lady Michelle Obama recently purchased two MacBooks so Obama and his daughters can videochat while he's away on government business. Past presidential hopefuls John Kerry and Al Gore are also Mac users, with Gore holding a seat on Apple's board of directors.

The most tech-savvy US President yet will use YouTube to offer a weekly address, and his website is full of small references to Apple products, including images of a MacBook Air and iPhone. Does his election also underline the historic re-emergence of Apple and the Mac platform?

The vision could be hyperbole, but Needham's analyst Charles Wolf notes: "Most of the iPhone's competitors run on relatively primitive operating systems. These systems are simply incapable of supporting the development of software applications that match the ingenuity of those written for the iPhone."

The move to stimulate games development is impressing developers. "Support has been excellent – more than you might expect from other companies that work in the games sector. Everything they tell us is very useful," James Brooksby, head of Kuju's Doublesix studio said at the Casual Games Forum. "Apple has been fantastic to work with." Apple is actively encouraging developers to create new games.

Most popular handset

Excitement surrounding iPhone continues unabated. The device is now the most popular handset bought by US adults according to NPD, with J.D. Power confirming a high degree of satisfaction among business users.

Over to Joswiak, who said of companion product, the iPod touch: "The computer power and the 3D graphic power here is significantly greater than what you have here [picks up Nintendo DS]. So this allows people to do significantly higher quality games."

The opportunity would appear to be with Apple, but just how strong a pitch does the company really have? Stuart Dredge from influential mobile gaming website Pocket Gamer (**www.pocketgamer.co.uk**) notes: "iPhone and iPod touch have huge potential for gaming, but as the Nintendo DS has proved, it's not just about hardware specs – it's about innovation and playability, too. That's what Apple needs to foster among developers."

Giant games publishers including Sega and Id Software are putting increasing resources into development of titles for the platform, and a bevy of start-up games developers have emerged, including the iFund-supported Ngcomo. "Games sold via the App Store are the most profitable in terms of any of the formats we work on," said Simon Jeffery, Sega's US President. He also told *Wall Street Journal* how Sega sold 500,000 copies of it popluar iPhone game *Super Monkey Ball*.

Apple's CEO, Steve Jobs, confirmed there have so far been more than 200 million software downloads through the App Store, around a quarter of which are of games. "I think the iPhone and iPod touch may emerge as really viable devices in the mobile games market this holiday season," he said. Clearly, games developers want to come out to play. ●

Apple in numbers

62%

The iPod's commanding slice of the UK MP3 player market

DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

"Apple just reported one of the best quarters in its history, with a spectacular performance by the iPhone – we sold more phones than RIM. We don't yet know how this economic downturn will affect Apple. But we're armed with the strongest product line in our history, the most talented employees and the best customers in our industry. And $25 billion of cash safely in the bank with zero debt."

Apple prepares to innovate its way out of recession once again.

JOHN SCULLEY www.techradar.com

"Jobs's genius is his ability to use technology to create products that define fundamental cultural shifts. The Mac defined 'personal technology', and the iPhone defines 'intimate technology' as a convergence of communications, content and location."

Former Apple CEO, John Sculley, praises the man he tried to replace.

EMI www.billboard.biz

"We didn't see the needle move at all on [piracy]. But what we did see is consumers loved the product. It was good for consumers, it's good for artists. It gets people engaged with the art in a whole new way by getting rid of artificial rules – like we don't trust you."

EMI's worldwide president of digital Douglas Merrill praises iTunes Plus.

IDC www.idc.com

"The availability of (virtualisation) technology is one of many factors driving growth in the adoption of Mac desktops and notebooks, for which shipments have grown 46.6% between the first half of 2007 and the first half of 2008."

IDC analyst Michael Rose notes advantage of enabling Windows on a Mac.

THE KILLERS www.musicradar.com

"The Killers' album *Day & Age* was demoed in *Logic*. Band members recorded demos separately in *Logic*, which allowed us to email ideas to each other and to the producer."

Band guitarist Dave Keuning makes music on Mac.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.com

A tale of love between a man and his iPhone

As other gadgets come and go, Chris's love for his iPhone continues

CHRIS'S COLUMN

Usually the shine wears off. You yearn to own some sparkly new bauble, it amuses you for a couple of weeks and then either its quirks irritate you, or you just get bored.

As a child of the 80s, this almost-palpable desire for consumer goods is utterly comprehensible. Everyone of my generation was desperate to own a shell-suit; desperate, that is, until the reports of ten-year-old-as-human-fireball started coming out.

And those thermochromic colour-changing T-shirts of the 90s? We pined for those. Quickly, though, it became clear that highlighting pit-stains by turning them neon pink was a surefire way to get the opposite sex's attention, but for all the wrong reasons.

Girlfriends and boyfriends too can pale after a few weeks. Traits that once you found endearing can quickly have you calling *This Morning* in floods of tears.

And yet my love for the iPhone just continues to grow. I felt the usual thrill of novelty when I first used one the day after Steve Jobs unveiled it in San Francisco, but, if I'd thought about it at all, I'd have expected me to begin thinking of it as just another gadget after a few months of ownership, and that I'd soon be lusting after another mobile handset.

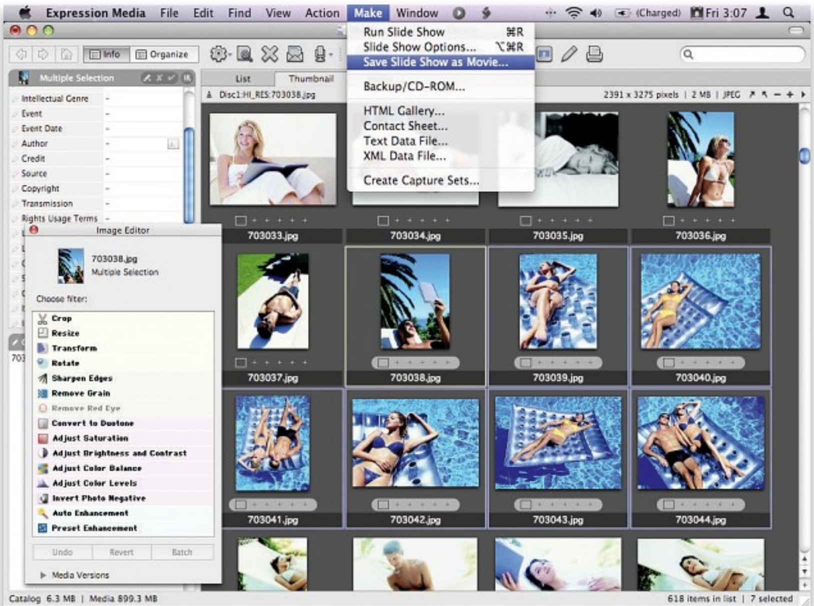
> "I may, one day, regret filling my flat with furniture-with-silly-names from Ikea, but I can't foresee a day when I won't be glad I bought my iPhone"

Not so. The iPhone still – still – feels astonishing. It's not just that I can add applications to it to transform it into a games console, remote control, or any one of a thousand different guises, but it's that the basic stuff is done with such humbling elegance and brilliance.

I maintain that one of the iPhone's most inspired features is the virtual keyboard. As well as letting each app have its own interface, and enabling simple non-Roman input, the intelligence behind the auto-correct technology is stunning. Going back to a dumb keyboard – the one on my MacBook, even, never mind other smartphones – feels frustratingly retrograde.

I may, in years to come, regret filling my flat with furniture-with-silly-names from Ikea, but I can't foresee a day when I won't be delighted I bought my iPhone. ●

If you happen to be walking the streets of Bath and see a man in a turquoise shell-suit fondling an iPhone, don't worry – it'll just be Deputy Editor Christopher Phin.


Expression Media
File
Edit
Find
View
Action
Make
Window
Run Slide Show
Slide Show Options...
Save Slide Show as Movie...
Backup/CD-ROM...
HTML Gallery...
Contact Sheet...
Text Data File...
XML Data File...
Create Capture Sets...
Image Editor
Choose filter:
Crop
Resize
Transform
Rotate
Sharpen Edges
Remove Grain
Remove Red Eye
Convert to Duotone
Adjust Saturation
Adjust Brightness and Contrast
Adjust Color Balance
Adjust Color Levels
Invert Photo Negative
Auto Enhancement
Preset Enhancement
Undo
Revert
Batch

PRODUCTIVITY APPS

Microsoft plans Office for web

Mac and iPhone users promised online access to Office suite

Microsoft's plans to make its *Office* applications available as online services, ensuring its Cloud-based solutions work with Mac and Linux clients, as well as Windows.

Microsoft has confirmed that users will be able to access its future software-as-service productivity suite online using their choice of browser, not just the company's own *Internet Explorer* application. However, these "light" online applications won't offer all the features of the desktop versions of *Word*, *Excel*, *OneNote* and *PowerPoint*, though users should be able to read, create/edit and collaborate on documents online.

Speaking at Microsoft's Professional Developers Conference in October, the company's Sarah Perez said the applications would, "work across multiple platforms and browsers", including *Safari*, *Firefox* and even the iPhone. Microsoft has also confirmed plans to introduce a Windows *Live* application and better Hotmail support for the iPhone community.

Office Web Applications will be made available through Microsoft's Office Live service, with both free and subscription-based versions made available, although this may change as the company hasn't finalised its pricing plans as yet. Private beta testing of the service begins this year. We'll let you know of any updates. ●

Office:mac 2008
Microsoft

Apple in numbers

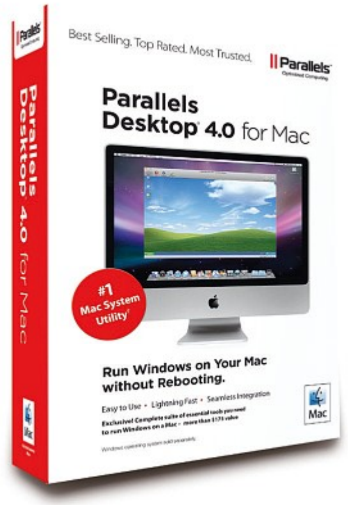
2,611,000

Number of Macs sold in Apple's Q4 – an all-time high

SWITCH-HITTER

Parallels 4.0 major upgrade

Performance and battery life lead list of improvements


Parallels
Best Selling. Top Rated. Most Trusted.
Parallels
Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac
#1 Mac System Utility
Run Windows on Your Mac without Rebooting.
Easy to Use • Lightning Fast • Seamless Integration
Mac
Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac

Available now, the *Parallels Desktop for Mac 4.0* virtualisation software includes a host of improvements, like better battery life and enhanced file management and access between the Mac and Windows desktops. Users should also expect up to 50% faster performance.

iPhone users also get some great new features; you can now remotely start, stop and manage Windows Virtual Machine from the iPhone, and support for speech recognition on Windows lets you use some voice commands to talk to *Parallels Desktop*.

Solving an inherent problem when running Windows on a Mac, the software ships with free anti-malware software from Kaspersky Labs, dubbed *Parallels Internet Security*. Windows' backup and recovery software's also part of the package.

Good news for gamers: This version introduces support for DirectX 9.0, DirectX Pixel Shader 2.0 and OpenGL 2.0, meaning improved video performance, itself boosted by the virtualisation software now demanding fewer system resources than before, boosting overall performance.

Online, *Parallels Desktop 4.0 for Mac* costs $80 (£53). There's also a free, fully-functional demo version of the software, which works for 15 days. ●

MAC NEWS

Mac Pro upgrade for early 2009

Intel is preparing new processors for future Mac Pro machines

Apple's Mac Pro is once again heading for an upgrade, and not before time when you consider the last major update occurred in January 2008.

Digitimes claims Intel will introduce new quad-core Xeon series server-class processors in the first quarter of 2009, which suggests Apple's desktop workhorses will see an update around that time.

Intel will introduce the Xeon 5500 and Xeon 3500 series of processors in several different configurations. They are based on the Nehalem architecture, now known as Core i7.

The new multicore and multi-threading capable microprocessors are built using the 45 nanometre process, Intel revealed earlier this year. That's the same size as the current generation of Xeon processors used in Mac Pros, but the new architecture promises much better performance. For example, built-in technology will watch what your processor is doing and can boost to whichever of the cores is doing the work for better performance and power management. For Mac professionals, though, the multi-level shared cache and scalable shared memory of the design will deliver additional performance gains, while Corei7's support for simultaneous multi-threading means an extra productivity boost when using applications capable of using all the cores. It's unlikely we'll see a huge hike in processor speed, however, as the top-end Core i7 chip offers 3.2GHz.

Will these chips come to the Mac Pro? Apple already uses Xeon 5400 chips in its pro desktops, so it's likely. Intel's also preparing versions for notebooks and servers, widening Apple's future upgrade options. ●

SNIPPETS

Apple's Euro-deliverance

Facing a Christmas present crisis? Apple now offers guaranteed delivery of any product(s) purchased through its online store to 15 European countries, though you must place your order with the online Apple Store of the destination country initially. If language is a problem you can also place your order with an Apple rep by calling 0800 048 0408.

SNOW PATROL

Snow Patrol's success

Snow Patrol's iPhone app generated 30,000 downloads in its first week of release, and there's more to come: "There are clever things going on with stuff like GPS. You could follow bands on tour, map their tour around the world, and make live video or audio from gigs available," said Polydor's Paul Smernicki.

Virtual Private Servers

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Custom setup
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Decision time for the future of Apple TV

For Brad Gibson, Expo will make or break Apple's multimedia box

ACROSS THE POND...

It was supposed to "redefine" what the TV does. Rent HD movies and TV shows from the iTunes Store, listen to your *iTunes* music, watch podcasts and view your photos to name just a few for £199.

A great idea, but Apple TV was poorly executed and marketed from the start. This is a product that has proved two things to me: one, Apple is not immune from blunders; two, the distance between meshing the Mac and the TV in the living room is further than we thought.

We need to see a new emphasis and direction for Apple TV at January's Expo keynote by Steve Jobs or the little white box will be history.

Despite Jobs's remarks in October that it will "continue to be a hobby" product into 2009, many Wall Street analysts have said that retail set-tops and other digital download services that deliver movies and shows over the net would surpass Blu-ray high-def disc players in sales. I agree.

> "For a company like Apple that creates and markets simplicity, they've done a lousy job of explaining how this little box works"

We've got to see a major upgrade to the hardware, software and functionality of Apple TV soon or it will disappear from the radar screen of retailers and consumers. It needs a major price reduction to make it a no-brainer purchase, a bigger hard drive (say 320GB) and high-definition support (at least 1080p). It needs support for dozens more audio and video standards – codecs – including 3GP, AVI, MPEG, MP4, H.264 among many. And it needs Blu-ray support.

But just as important, Apple needs to better explain to consumers why Apple TV is so important. For a company like Apple that creates and markets simplicity, it's done a lousy job of explaining how this little box works.

So together with all the new iMacs, Mac Pros and such we expect to see on keynote day, we'd better see a major re-emphasis on what I believe will be the future synergy between our Macs and the living room, or Apple TV will be just a fond memory for us all sooner rather than later. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via *iTunes* or from www.macformat.co.uk.

APPLE BUSINESS

Apple reveals record sales

A record-breaking quarter, but iPod leader leaves

Apple has returned record Mac sales in its fourth 2008 business quarter, while also achieving strong iPod and iPhone sales.

Apple faces problems in its executive ranks, with the departure of 'iPod father' Tony Fadell, and legal problems preventing his replacement, Mark Papermaster taking over.

In the three months leading to 27 September 2008, Apple achieved revenue of $7.9 billion and profit of $1.14 billion, up $1.1 million since the same period one year ago.

Mac and iPhone sales accounted for 70% of Apple's total revenue last quarter. The company shipped 2,611,000 Macs, up 21% in unit sales and 17% in revenue compared to this time last year.

iPhone sales reached 6,892,000 compared to 1,119,000 last year. RIM shifted 6.1 million BlackBerrys in the period. iPod sales rose 8% to 11,052,000 units, contributing just 14.2% to Apple's total revenue, confirming Apple's no longer dependent on iPod sales.

The company has also seen an executive reshuffle, with the departure of Vice President of iPod Engineering, Tony Fadell. Mark Papermaster is set to take over as Senior Vice President of Devices Hardware Engineering, generating speculation he'll be involved in mobile processor development with the PA Semi team. His former employer, IBM, is taking legal action, based on claims Papermaster violated his non-compete agreement with IBM by joining alleged competitor, Apple. Papermaster and Apple refute this, saying his work has nothing to do with his former position as VP of microprocessor technology development. ●

Apple in numbers

2.2%

Apple's estimated share of global mobile phone sales, ABI Research

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
MENU

Apple has announced record Mac and iPod sales for Q4 2008.

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

Having gone sub-$100, as reported last month, Apple's share price hauled its way back to $110.99 only to drop back down to $92. Apple shareholders and potential investors should not despair. The company remains an innovatory powerhouse and could well be approaching a bottom as the market itself is at a turning point. If the market bounces then Apple will ride that wave.

It remains to be seen what impact the Google G1 phone will have on the iPhone. One thing the company does not need to worry about just yet is a challenge to its MP3 crown. Dell has now abandoned its plans to launch its own MP3.

Apple has an incredible track record of doing things right, so its lofty valuations, however outrageous, have always been supported by superb execution. However, Apple will go the way of the market: if we get a 1974 post crash super rally Apple will go with it; if we suffer another catastrophic financial shock, Apple will be sucked down the plughole with the rest of the market.

Softline

Premier Macintosh Distributor

Fantastic New Games For The Mac!

This Months Best Sellers!

Source: Softline UK Retail Sales

This Week	Last Week	Title	Publisher	Genre
1	NEW	Spore	EA	Strategy
2	3	The Sims 2	Aspyr	Strategy
3	4	Age of Empires III	Macsoft	Strategy
4	1	X-Plane 9	Graphsim	Flight Sim
5	8	Command & Conquer: The Tiberium Wars	EA	Shoot-em up
6	5	Civilization IV	Aspyr	Strategy
7	NEW	Wall-E	THQ	Adventure/RPG
8	NEW	Age of Empires III: The Asian Dynasties (Exp)	Macsoft	Strategy
9	6	Battlestations Midway	Feral	Strategy
10	2	Neverwinter Nights 2	Aspyr	Strategy

Coming Soon!

TOCA Race Driver 3
Race the world's most exciting real competition cars. Featuring explosive damage effects, online multiplayer racing and more.

Unreal Tournament III
Utilizing the power of Unreal Engine 3, the latest installment takes graphics and gameplay to a whole new level.

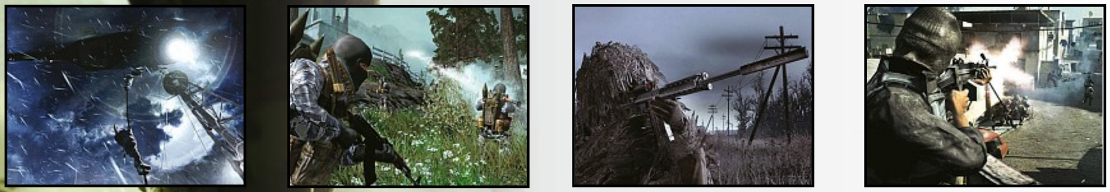
Available Now! RRP £39.95 NEW!

Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare

Join the battle

Featuring a tense storyline, filled with plot twists, the title thrusts players into battle like never before. With amazing special effects, including rim-lighting, depth of field, texture streaming and character self-shadowing, players are enlisted into one of the most photo-realistic gaming experiences imaginable.

The community-oriented Call of Duty 4 multiplayer gameplay features a robust leveling system, variety of unlockable perks, hot-join and matchmaking, as well as create a class and party capabilities to ensure that players of all skill levels can join in the fun.



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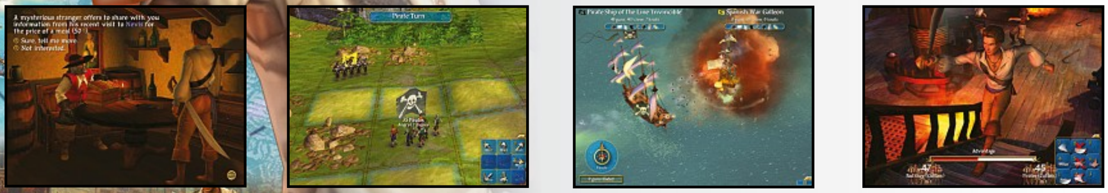

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We have eight sets of award-winning speakers up for grabs

PRIZES WORTH £600 IN TOTAL

We've teamed up with Altec Lansing to offer you the chance to win some fantastic speakers for your iPod or iPhone. The Altec Lansing T612 won the Editor's Choice award in our special-edition magazine, *MacFormat Presents The Essential iPhone Handbook*, and you'd understand why as soon as you switch them on. The sound is big, full and rich, and plenty loud enough to fill a room with music, and because it's designed for the iPhone you don't get that stuttering, blippy interference from GSM signals, and it'll charge your iPhone, too. It works just as well with regular iPods and the iPod touch, and can be wall-mounted. And we have three units to give away!

Not everyone wants a big, static speaker system like this, though, so we also have five Altec Lansing Orbits to be won as well. This little portable speaker is powered by 3x AAA batteries, and pumps out surprisingly competent sound for such a small device. It's the perfect way to get the party started wherever you are, and because it has an integrated 3.5mm mini-jack connector, it will plug into just about any audio source.

To read more on Altec Lansing's range of products, head to **www.alteclansing.com**.

THE QUESTION

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, simply answer the following question correctly using one of the methods outlined in the box on the right.

Which of the following is not a standard battery size?

A) A
B) AA
C) AAA

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, you can either text ALTEC followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 6 January 2009.

The wonderful world of widgets

We've played with the latest widgets, and put the top four on your disc

Queen Izabella's Adventure to Skull Island

www.interactivemagicworks.com

This graphically rich adventure game is an entertaining little romp when you're not busy, but it also acts as a promotional tool for the developer.

URL Compression Widget

http://blog.josephmclaughlin.info

We all know long URLs can get broken in transit, this widget lets you turn a long address into a short one for emailing or posting to character-limited services.

Woolworths Widget

www.exhibithire.co.uk

One day all retailers will have a widget like this, which lets you search for products at the online Woolworths store, potentially useful tool for price-comparison checking.

Hidden Files
Show

Hiddenfiles

http://studentwebs.winona.edu/mahansen2573/

A handy fast-to-use tool for Mac repairers and developers, this widget toggles the visibility of those files which are hidden when looked at in *Finder*.

IPHONE APP

Google app gets everybody talking

New iPhone program lets you speak your Google search

Google is developing a groundbreaking iPhone application which lets users search the internet using voice commands, the *New York Times* has claimed.

However, following the report, a seemingly official Google video showing the app in action was removed from YouTube's servers with no statement from the company, which had clearly cooperated with the original reportage. This inevitably kick-started a flurry of rumours claiming Apple or Google had delayed release of the application for an unknown reason.

If the solution appears it's an exciting one, the report claimed. In order to initiate a Google search with your voice, iPhone users simply activate the app, raise the phone to their ear and speak the search query, "Italian restaurants", for example. The app automatically sets itself to 'listen' when the device is raised to your ear. Spoken questions are digitised and sent to Google's servers to figure out the question and track-down the answer.

It's location-aware, so results are based on where you are at the time. ●

AT&T
9:42 AM
Pizza
John's Pizzeria
Google
Search
Directions

Speak and search with new Google app for the iPhone.

EVENTS DIARY

CES, LAS VEGAS
8-11 January 2009

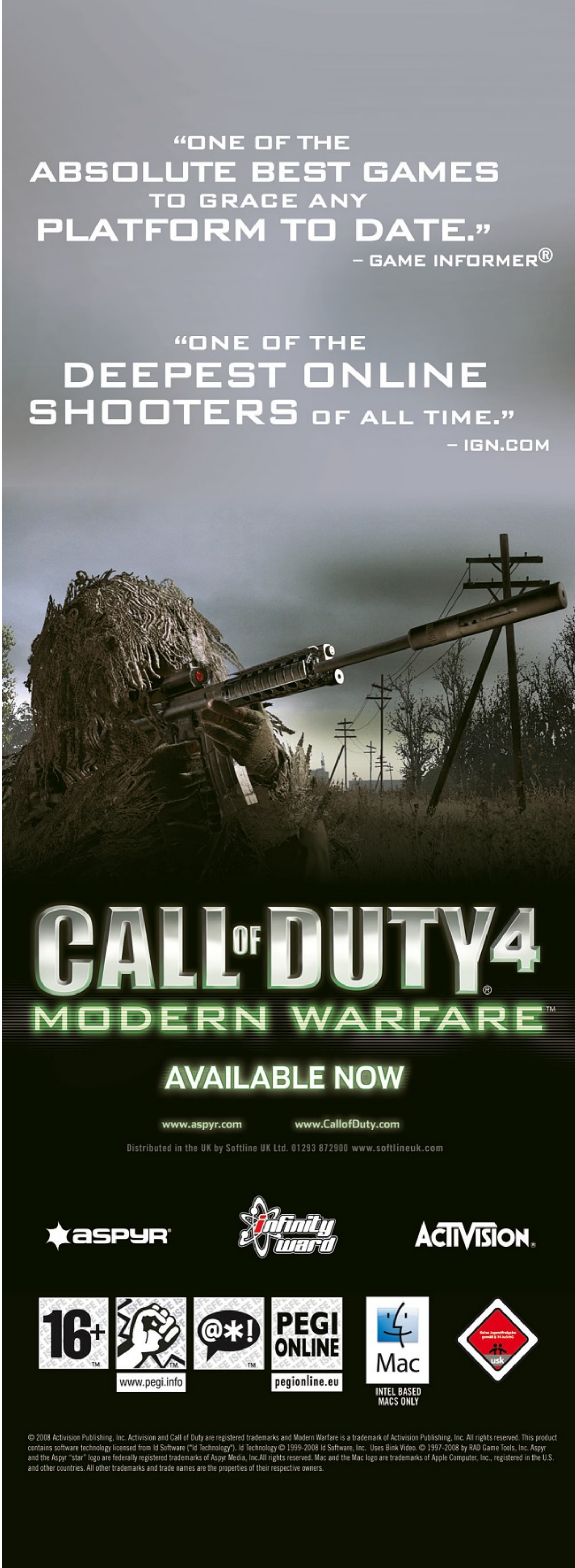
Once a Windows-only playground, CES has become more platform-agnostic, showing the most interesting new consumer electronics products each year.

MACWORLD, SAN FRANCISCO
5-9 January 2009

The most essential annual event for Apple-watchers everywhere as the entire industry asks what the company will come up with next.

BETT, LONDON
14-17 January 2009

Apple regularly makes a splash at this UK education technology show, which has traditionally been the first chance to see any newly-revealed Apple kit in this country.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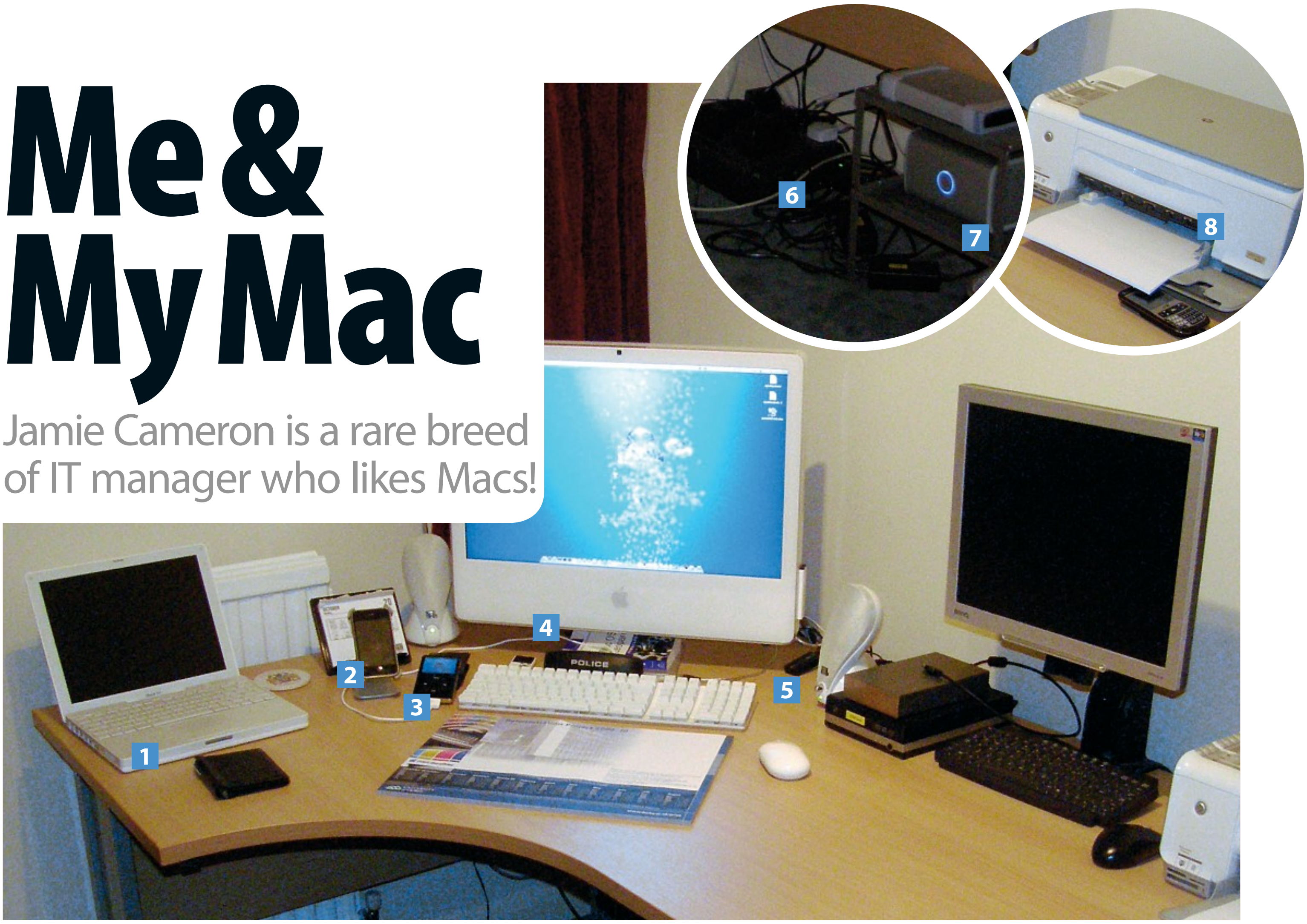
Me & My Mac

Jamie Cameron is a rare breed of IT manager who likes Macs!



1 Apple iBook G4 12-inch 1.33GHz Though Apple has now abandonded this white plastic design, we still have a soft spot for the iBook.

2 Apple iPhone 3G Time was, no self-respecting Mac user would send in a pic of their setup without an iPod in shot; these days, it's an iPhone!

3 Apple iPod classic 160GB As much as we love the iPod touch and iPhone, neither comes close to this behemoth for sheer music capacity.

4 Apple iMac 24-inch 2.16GHz This Core 2 Duo-powered beast is at the heart of Jamie's setup, and it's a very capable machine.

5 Elgato Turbo.264 This H.264-optimised processor stick really speeds up the process of converting video for the iPod or iPhone.

6 APC Back-UPS ES 700 As we discuss on p62, it's easy to protect your Mac from power cuts with a UPS, and Jamie has done just that.

7 WD My Book Pro 1TB You never have enough storage space in our experience, but external hard disks are at least cheap, though.

8 HP Photosmart C3180 As we proved in last issue's MFD Group Test, these all-in-one devices are fantastic value for money.

Name:
Jamie Cameron
Occupation:
IT manager
Been using a Mac for:
Two years
Favourite hardware:
Apple iMac
Favourite software:
Yojimbo

Anyone who has tried to use their Mac at work has probably run into some resistance from the IT department. Myths about incompatibilities – and a genuine concern at how much of a CTO and his team's valuable time will be taken up integrating this non-Windows computer into the system – mean that many IT managers are reluctant to allow Macs into the system.

If you work at the same company as Jamie Cameron, however, you're likely to get a friendlier reception. He's an IT manager who loves his Macs, and it was the promise of *iLife* that brought him to the platform. "Being in IT I'm frequently asked for advice on potential purchases," he tells us. "In 2006, a family friend wanted to buy an Apple laptop for her niece. I knew little about Apple, so set about having a look. In the course of my research I came across a keynote presentation by Steve Jobs, and, among other things, *iLife '06* was featured; I thought it looked fantastic. My wife was expecting our daughter at that time and so the family use of our digital camera and camcorder was to shoot up significantly. So I purchased an iBook G4 with *iLife '06* around Easter time. Come Christmas I was hooked, so I splashed out on the iMac and sold my Windows desktop."

That's quite a move for a man who makes his living managing ranks of PCs. "Prior to purchasing my iBook I'd been a Windows only user, both professionally and personally, for many years – since OS/2! My workplace is still Windows-based, but my feeling is that Windows PCs don't provide anything like the coherent experience that I get from Macs."

> "I bought an iBook G4 around Easter. Come Christmas I got the iMac and sold my Windows desktop"

He's now exclusively a Mac user at home. "The *iLife* suite, in particular *iPhoto* and *iMovie*, get heavy usage. I'm also an *iTunes* fan and don't buy physical CDs any more unless I have to. I have an Elgato EyeTV with Elgato Turbo.264 which is fantastic for recording TV and then creating movies I can watch at my leisure on my iPod.

"*Yojimbo* is also a useful little utility; it's great for saving a variety of 'stuff' that otherwise you would be saving in multiple different apps. Following a recent glitch on my iMac, though, I'd have to say *Time Machine* is amazing."

Ask him what his favourite Apple product is, and like so many of us he's sold on the iPhone. "I upgraded to the 3G model on launch day – it was my wife's birthday, so much to her displeasure I spent part of the morning outside our local O2 store! I've tried other Windows and Symbian mobile devices but nothing beats the iPhone for flexibility and ease of use." ●

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Playing live is a vital part of the music experience for Francis. He's even performing house concerts throughout the USA and UK.

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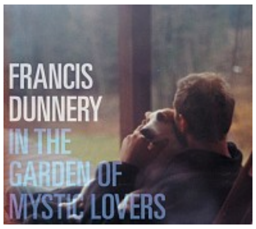
Live in Tokyo
NCIS DUNNERY
IT BITES
Dunnery live
FRANCIS DUNNERY
Tall Blonde Helicopter

Francis Dunnery
MAN



Francis has been using a Mac to help him create music for most of his recording life.

Photos © rabbid@flakk

Interview: **Graham Barlow**

I use my Mac for...

Recording & producing

John Edwards/Flying Spot

PROFILE

Name: Francis Dunnery
Location: Pocono Mountains, USA
Occupation: Musician and Writer
System(s): Mac book, G5 Tower
URL: www.francisdunnery.com

We talk to the founding band member of It Bites

MacFormat: How long have you been using Macs?

Francis Dunnery: I've been using Macs since the Quadra 700 days. I bought it along with the first *ProTools* rig and have followed the computer on its evolution ever since. The current MacBook and the MacBook Pro are going to be hard machines to beat for sheer power and practical purposes. I really love my MacBook; I would be absolutely lost without it.

MF: What do you use your Mac for; what are your favourite programs?

FD: I use my Mac mainly for creative purposes like music, editing video and website design. My favourite program is probably *Logic Pro* simply because it has absolutely everything you could ever need to create music and also down to the fact that I don't feel like I've been ripped off for upgrades. The price is astonishing for the amount you get. I still have my *ProTools* rig because it's something I've always used, but I think *Logic* is far more practical in the long run.

MF: Why a Mac and not a PC?

FD: Mac users are different from PC users in the sense that Mac users have an intimate relationship with their Macs! It's almost like a pet. PC users are much less personal about their machines. I've also noticed that PCs tend to have very childish-looking programs in the creative field and most of them are just not that practical. You can get seriously frustrated trying to do certain things on a PC that take about two seconds on a Mac.

MF: What project are you working on right now?

FD: I'm one of those people that has about ten projects going on at the same time. At this present moment I'm in Seattle on a four-day shoot for a DVD that we're creating. Next I'll tour the West Coast of the USA for ten days performing house concerts. I've also just finished producing a CD for James Sonefeld, who's the songwriter from Hootie & the Blowfish. I'm also producing a progressive rock CD for a guy called Steve Nardelli. It was recorded on my MacBook and will eventually be mixed on my MacBook. I have loads of things going on right now – too many to mention!

In 2009, I'll definitely be writing and creating a new breed of progressive rock. It's something I've wanted to do for a while. I have a band called The New Progressives and we're looking to create a CD, video and multimedia experience. The Mac will obviously be a huge part of it. ●

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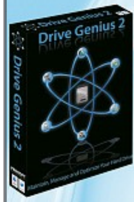

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CLIPBOARD

"I've been a subscriber to *MacFormat* mag for a number of months and am glad to say that as a new Mac user it's a great magazine, full of useful info to help a tech newbie like me understand just what a wonderful piece of equipment I have."
Terence Moore

"I'm currently reading the December issue of *MacFormat* (a great magazine – I've been subscribing for some years)."
Laurie North

BUYERS' GUIDE OMISSION

I've just noticed a small but important omission in your Buyers Guide section. When you list the specifications of the various models of Mac, desktop and laptop, you make no mention of FireWire or USB sockets.

What made me notice this was reading the specifications of the latest Apple laptops. The old white MacBooks come with FireWire and USB, while the new MacBooks only have two USB sockets. As I need a minimum of one FireWire and two USB sockets, this information is essential for me. Could you include information on this in future editions of *MacFormat*? Thank you.
David Stanley

MacFormat replies: FireWire used to come as standard on all Macs, however with the new aluminium MacBooks, Apple seems to be moving towards a future without FireWire, much to everybody's annoyance. While the MacBook Air only ever came with one USB port and no FireWire port, it now looks like it might be necessary to list which Macs still support FireWire, so we'll definitely look at adding this to the Buyers' Guide in the near future.

Price reductions are few and far between when it comes to Apple. You're far better visiting the refurb store for a bargain.

WILL MACBOOK PRICES DROP?

I'm waiting impatiently to get a new MacBook (the 2.0GHz £950 model). It will be my first Mac. When they came out I didn't buy one, assuming the prices would drop, but they've yet to do so. Does Apple tend to reduce the price on its MacBooks after release? If so, can anyone guess what kind of money we're talking about?
Alex

MacFormat replies: Well, anything can happen, but we'd say you're unlikely to see a price drop in the MacBook range until a new model comes out next year, Alex. With the exchange rates taking a turn for the worse, the entry-level white MacBook actually went up £20 to £719 at the time the new aluminium MacBooks were launched. Unlike PC suppliers, Apple generally doesn't discount its prices unless

★STAR LETTER | A QUICK BUCK

I wish journalists would stop propagating the old wive's tale that the quality of a computer is related to its cost.

All computers, PCs or Macs, use the same components obtained from the same suppliers of such high quality that they have failure rates as low as ten in a million. All are manufactured using zero-defect and zero-waste techniques to high quality standards. There's no reason whatsoever why a Mac should cost more than a PC to make, and the excellence of their designs is such that they may well cost less.

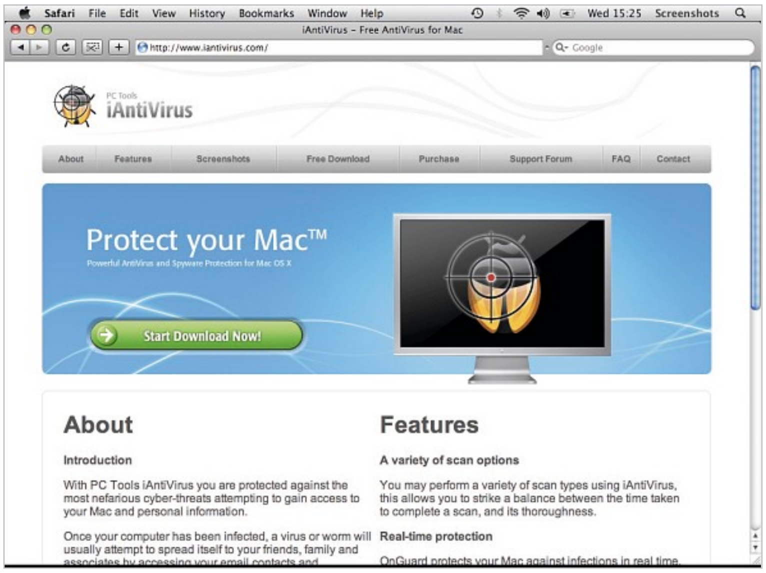
So to claim (*MacFormat*, issue 202) that Apple refuses "to compromise on quality just to make a quick buck" is patently untrue. It's marketing hype.

Apple can charge more for its computers because of the brilliance of its designs, its outstanding innovations, its excellent operating system, the halo effects of other Mac products and the charismatic marketing skills of Steve Jobs and his colleagues. It really is nothing to do with the cost of quality or manufacture but is about what the market will bear.

I write as a Mac fan and avid reader of *MacFormat*.
Peter Moyes

MacFormat replies:
You're right that Macs use the same components that can be found in Windows PCs, Peter. That's certainly a myth that needs busting, but we would disagree with you elsewhere.

It's not true that all optical drives or screens, for example, are created equally. There are levels of quality and features. Apple tends to use the more reliable, higher spec components in its products – but so do PC manufacturers in their higher end laptops and PCs. You're right that there's more to a Mac than just the components. Apple knows exactly what components it has in its machines, so it can tailor its software to make sure it works perfectly with the hardware. Also, Apple puts a lot of effort into its enclosures, and of course there's the great OS X software and *iLife* apps. This is what makes Macs better.



Protect your Mac™

Powerful AntiVirus and Spyware Protection for Mac OS X

About

Introduction

With PC Tools iAntiVirus you are protected against the most nefarious cyber-threats attempting to gain access to your Mac and personal information.

Once your computer has been infected, a virus or worm will usually attempt to spread itself to your friends, family and associates by accessing your email contacts and

Features

A variety of scan options

You may perform a variety of scan types using iAntiVirus, this allows you to strike a balance between the time taken to complete a scan, and its thoroughness.

Real-time protection

OnGuard protects your Mac against infections in real time.

Installing anitvirus software on your Mac is as much about peace of mind as anything else.

it releases a new model, even in January. If you're looking for a cheaper route to ownership of a Mac then the Apple refurb store is probably your best bet.

SCREENSHOT ON A MAC?

Is it possible to take a screenshot on my iMac like I used to be able to on my PC – using the Print Screen key and then pasting in *Paint*?

Clint

MacFormat replies: It certainly is possible, Clint. Hold down ⌘+⇧+[3] to take a shot of the full screen, or ⌘+⇧+[4] to take a shot of the current window.

iMAC SCREEN TIP

I'm writing to you to give you a Mac hint that you didn't mention on your 200th issue celebration podcast. It was in the answer to a question from a man from Wales as to whether you can manually switch off the screen on an iMac. I can inform you that it's easily done with a keyboard shortcut.

Pressing ⇧+[Ctrl]+[Eject] will turn off the screen on an iMac. It definitely works on a white Intel iMac and I imagine it would work with the aluminium ones as well. Keep up the good work!

Adrian Russell

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the tip, Adrian. I'm sure many of our readers will find it useful.

ANTIVIRUS, OR NOT?

After a lifetime with PCs, I finally took the plunge earlier this year and purchased an iMac. My only regret is not having taken the plunge sooner, as it doesn't seem to come with the multitude of problems and lack of support that PC owners suffer.

Likewise, I've subscribed to your magazine to discover how to do things with my Mac. It's informative, easy to read and understand, and the layout and content are excellent. Nevertheless, I'm totally confused about antivirus protection. As a PC user for many years, I was acutely aware of the need for up-to-date antivirus and firewall protection (even then viruses got through until a hastily written patch was issued).

When I purchased my iMac at an Apple Store, I asked about antivirus protection in particular and was assured that Mac OS X didn't need any.

I'm now confused, as in the Letters section of your October 2008 issue you seem to be recommending that Mac owners do need antivirus protection.

What does Apple advise? Are you recommending an antivirus program for peace of mind? Thank you in advance and keep up the excellent work!

Steve Gauld

MacFormat replies: You don't *need* antivirus software to use your Mac on the internet, however it can never hurt to take precautions, just in case. As a Mac owner, your main threat from viruses is that you'll inadvertently pass a Windows-only virus on to a Windows-using contact via an email, rather than encounter something that will affect your own system. While there have been cases of malicious files out there that will harm your Mac, you're very unlikely to ever encounter one in the real world, but to reiterate, it can never hurt to be protected.

At the end of the day, it's a personal decision. *Virus Barrier X* from Intego (**www.intego.com**) won our Mac antivirus group test in issue 195, and the free *iAntiVirus* has since been released, which you can get as a download from **www.iantivirus.com**. Both will serve you well. ●

Mac FORMAT

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It may be packed with features, but it's mega bulky!

Words **Elizabeth Munro** Photography **Joe Branston**

My month with the Nike+ Sport Kit

From couch potato to amateur athlete in just one month? We test the iPod touch and Nike+ Sport Kit to see if they can help

Still getting used to the touch

Running may well be a fantastic way to get fit, shape up and de-stress, but it can be intimidating for the novice; those shuffling, sweating hardcore runners you pass on the road in the early morning hours or on a miserable winter night have a level of commitment that's likely to terrify the potential round-the-block jogger. They run alone or in pairs, steely and silent, seemingly focused on a future where the soft of belly and weak of thigh will finally keel over, and the athletic will inherit the Earth.

The good news for the reluctant runner is that we now have non-judgemental support and encouragement in the form of Nike+ for the iPod touch. The system acts as a knowledgeable, always-there trainer, ready to guide you in anything from a shuffle around the local park to the London Marathon, if you're willing to shell out for the Nike + Sport Kit.

We've looked at the Nike+ system before (see *MacFormat*, issue 202, page 64) but now that the new iPod touch has the receiver built in, we thought it was time to take it out for another run. Would the bulkiness of the iPod touch cancel out the loss of the tiny receiver? Would the innovative Multi-Touch display revolutionise the Nike+ experience? Would my quest for physical perfection ultimately be brought down by Mr Whippy? I decided to spend a month training with Nike+ and my iPod touch to find out.

Day 1

I'm slightly worried about this running lark, and the track gear I've purchased is triggering flashbacks to high school PE lessons. Thankfully I've acquired a pair of Nike+ running shoes that are far cooler than anything I owned as a teenager. The Air Equalon +3s are a recent addition to the range and boast an array of features I never knew I needed: arch support straps, reflective piping and, interestingly, an outward-angled heel to counteract the wonky, tipping gait of the habitual jogger. I'm not sure if I actually have a tipping gait, but I'm glad Nike has got my podiatric interests at heart. It's surprisingly easy to fit the sensor from the Nike + Sport Kit. Ready to use straight from the box, the sensor slips into a nook under the inner sole and will live there happily for the length of its battery life – a thousand hours of active workout time, according to Nike – and because the new iPod touch has the receiver built in, that's all I have to do. My newly-synced touch is revved up and ready to go, demanding that I 'walk around to activate the sensor' and making me scroll through a depressingly long list of body weights to enter my current heft. I head out for my first lap around the block, which I'll draw a journalistic veil over in order to spare your mind's eye.

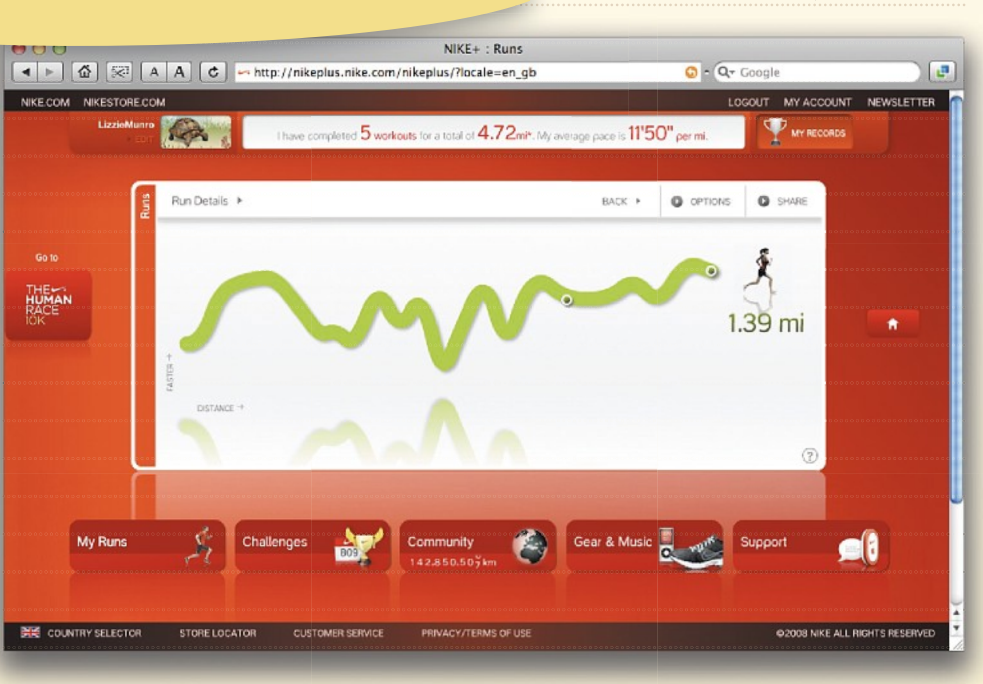
Day 5

My first few runs have been distracted affairs, mainly occupied with exploring the system and despairing at my weak calf muscles. The Nike+ gear is easy to use, which is good news for the techno-tentative. The easiest option for newbies is to select the Basic workout, in which you simply pick a playlist and start running. The female voice I've chosen is certainly friendlier and more encouraging than scary old Mr Marshall, although I find myself carrying the touch in my hand as I run in order to check the screen displaying my time, pace and distance. Today I try a calorie-burning workout, with the touch prompting me to select the calories I'd like to burn during my run. I choose 100, slightly more than a Marks & Spencer Operetta chocolate. The spoken prompts really come into their own in this mode, with the silky voice piping up to inform me when I'm halfway to my target, and again when I'm within ten calories of it. I'm perturbed to find that I have to run over half a kilometre to burn off 100 calories; no more Operettas for me, then.

Day 7

I sync my first week's runs at **http://nikeplus.com** and am geekily delighted to see my progress charted in a myriad of stats and graphs. Suddenly the paltry minute I've been shaving off each run looks like proper progress, and I'm able to identify the point in my run at which I slow down and lose pace (actually, I already know this; it's at the entrance to a local construction site, where I tiptoe past quietly to avoid builderly musings on my backside). I use the maps function to identify some new routes, although these can't yet be uploaded to the touch. It would be great to see some information on contours, too, in order to find some level running in hilly Bath.

> "I'm geekily delighted to see my progress charted in a myriad of stats and graphs"



http://nikeplus.nike.com/nikeplus/?locale=en_gb

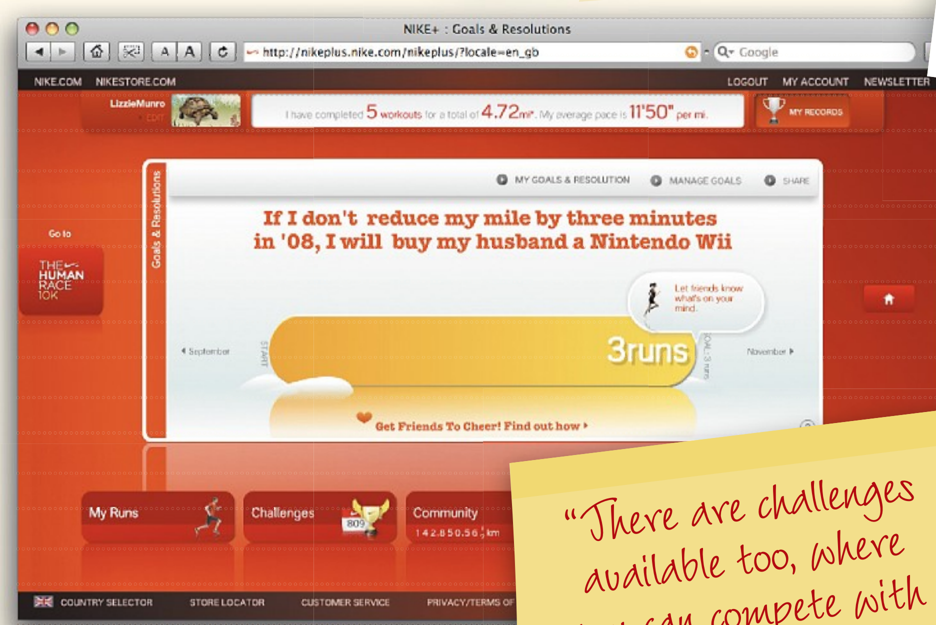
I have completed 5 workouts for a total of 4.72mi*. My average pace is 11'50" per mi.

There's no way you can run with that on!

Day 13

Two weeks in, and I'm loving the Nike+ experience. Finding the touch a little large to carry on long runs, I've ordered a sports band from Belkin, reassured that I'll still be able to get progress feedback by pressing the home button at any time during my run. The band is soft and slimline – much nicer than some of the plasticky offerings I've seen – but the touch still feels huge on my arm, and I'm very conscious of it as I run. It's certainly not as discreet as the nano, and doesn't fit comfortably under my sleeve. If I wasn't running in a relatively busy and safe area, I'm not sure I'd want to be wearing such a flashy bit of kit so openly. As if to confirm my feeling that the touch is highly conspicuous, kids from the local school comment on it as I pass them on the opposite side of the road. "Sweet, is that an iPhone?" a spotty youth bellows amiably. "Please don't mug me," I think, and run away.

Apple headphones were great!


NIKE+ : Goals & Resolutions

http://nikeplus.nike.com/nikeplus/?locale=en_gb

I have completed 5 workouts for a total of 4.72mi. My average pace is 11'50" per mi.

If I don't reduce my mile by three minutes in '08, I will buy my husband a Nintendo Wii

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November ›
My Runs
Challenges
809
COUNTRY SELECTOR
STORE LOCATOR
CUSTOMER SERVICE
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> "There are challenges available too, where you can compete with other Nike+ users"

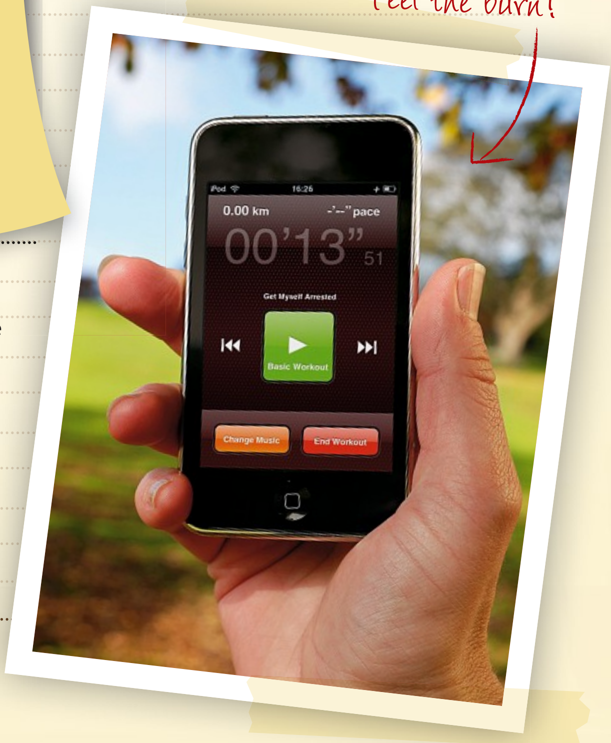
Day 19

My competitive streak is getting the better of me, and I feel cocky enough to set myself some goals and resolutions online. The Nike+ site is all about the goals; none of your 'it's the taking part that counts' platitudes here. My new-found confidence takes a hit when I find the list of suggested goals include such gems as 'Run five runs under an average pace of 7:35' (the numbers refer to minutes and seconds per mile) while I've been averaging 10:59 and considering myself a veritable Paula Radcliffe. It's easy to alter the goals, of course, and there's something concrete about seeing your target up there in pretty red type, deliberately tricky to reset or edit. There are challenges available too, where you can compete with other Nike+ users to see who has the fastest mile or who can complete the most miles over a set time period, and you can download beta widgets for OS X 10.4 and later to monitor all this on your *Dashboard*. It all seems a bit hardcore for the novice, though, and I'm too intimidated to look for other runners who might want to join my 'get to the end of the road without hailing a cab' challenge. Besides, I'm running in Bath and like I said, it's hilly!

Day 24

I'd been wondering about getting new headphones to replace the notoriously rubbish white earbuds that come with all iPods, being particularly concerned that they might fall out during strenuous bouts of running. As it turns out, the earbuds haven't fallen out once and I've found that their failure to block out external noise is actually a useful thing when running along busy roads; it's always best to know when a juggernaut is bearing down on you, reflective piping or no reflective piping.

Feel the burn!


iPod
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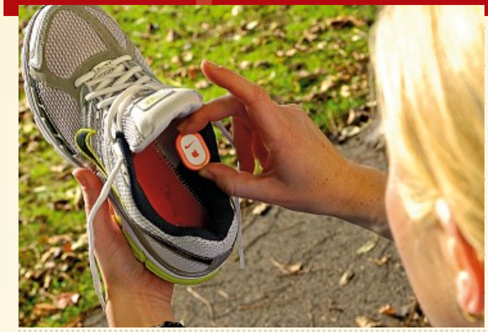
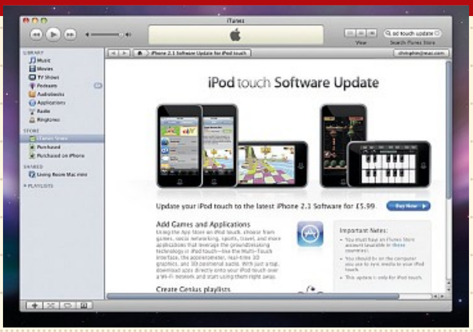
Get Myself Arrested
Basic Workout
Change Music
End Workout

STEP BY STEP Setting up the Nike+ system

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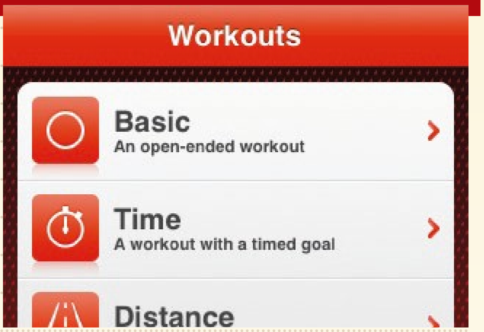

Workouts
Basic
An open-ended workout
Time
A workout with a timed goal
Distance

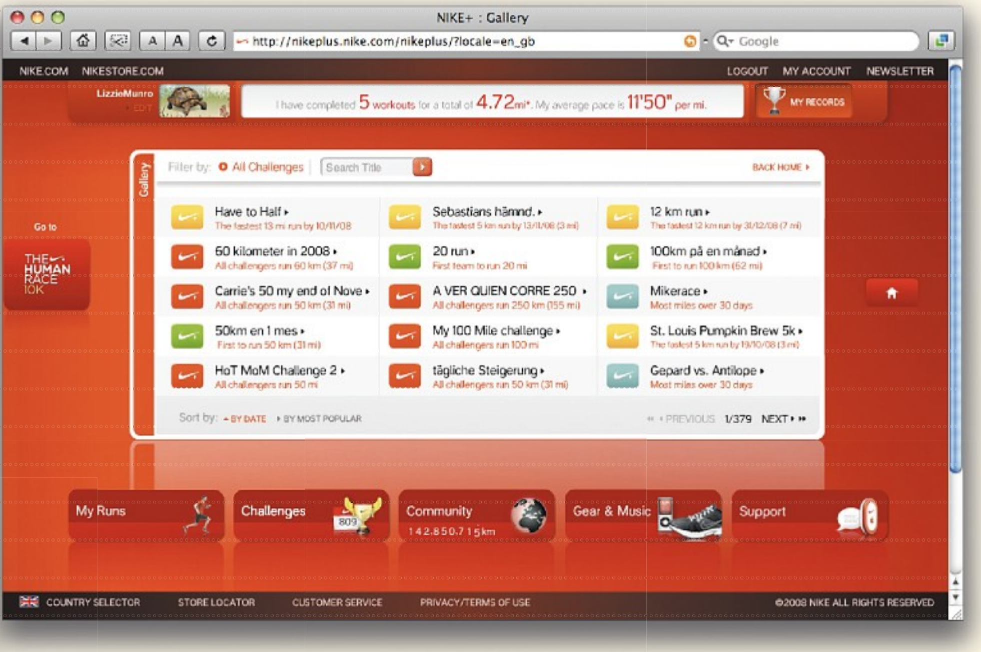
01 The insole of the left Nike+ trainer-enabled shoe lifts to reveal a slot for the sensor: just remove the rubbery insert. The sensor is pre-activated and there's a sleep button if you intend to wear your shoes outside of workouts. There's no need to insert the iPod receiver that comes with the Nike + iPod Sport Kit; the touch has one built in.

02 If you have an iPod touch, you'll already have the latest *iTunes*. Plug your touch into your computer and go to the **Summary** menu to check for updates. Then unplug your iPod and fire up **Nike + iPod**, found in the **Settings** app. From here you can set feedback preferences. A detailed video tutorial is available at **http://nikeplus.nike.com**.

03 The easiest way to begin is to tap the **Nike + iPod** icon on the home screen of your touch and choose **Basic workout**. You'll be asked to choose a playlist from your *iTunes* library then walk around in your Nike+ shoes to activate the sensor. When the green **Start Workout** button shows, tap it and start running! ●

Day 28

I've discovered the online coaching and have signed up for the 'Walk to Run' programme. It maps out a diary of timed walking goals several times a week, gradually introducing and increasing short running intervals until, theoretically, I should be able to run for 25 minutes at a time. It looks great, but I'm confused about how to get it to sync with my touch, or if it's even meant to. Most of the Nike+ forum members I talk to are similarly confused and suggest instead that I download one of the running podcasts for free on *iTunes*. The popular *Podrunner: Intervals* sounds good, but I find the music too techno-dancey for my liking. Further investigation throws up *The JogTunes Indie Podcast*, in which the avuncular Dr Bob guides the listener through a workout that matches the beats-per-minute of the indie-pop tunes.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60 kilometer in 2008 ▸
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I have completed 5 workouts for a total of 4.72mi*. My average pace is 11'50" per mi.

I'm finally starting to enjoy this!

> "It's a great motivator and incentive for reluctant beginners like me"

Day 32

My month is over, and I'm surprised to find that not only have I enjoyed it, but I'm happy to keep running. Other than aching thighs during the first week, I've had no leg or joint pain thanks to my super-ergonomic Equalon +3s. Nike+ is easy to use with the iPod touch, and while the system is aggressively marketed toward the experienced runner, it's a great motivator and incentive for reluctant beginners like me. While the screen on the touch gives fantastic, clear readouts during workouts, I may be tempted to go back to my old nano in future, simply because it's lighter and more discreet to wear. But it's a small gripe for a fantastic device that banishes memories of gym knickers and stopwatches. Just do it! ●

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Words **Graham Barlow, Hollin Jones, Christopher Phin**

Easy Mac upgrades

Upgrading your existing Mac could save you hundreds of pounds and extend the working life of your cherished computer…

Mac FORMAT On the disc

Find related software on this issue's disc.

Some people used to claim that Macs couldn't be upgraded. Whilst there were some models that made it rather tricky, in truth Macs have always been upgradeable in various ways, especially tower models. And in recent years, the situation has improved dramatically with more and more Macs having user-friendly upgrade options that don't involve taking your machine to a specialist.

Adding RAM is one of the most important and effective methods of boosting performance, and in many cases you can also fit bigger, faster hard drives. Adding wireless cards and DVD burners – both internal and external – to older Macs can greatly increase their life span, and there's even a market for processor upgrades in older, G3- and G4-based Macs.

Skipping forward a generation, some early Intel Macs can have their processors swapped, though it's still not a process for the faint hearted. The tower Mac is the most upgradeable of all, with many components able to be removed and replaced. So if you're thinking about buying a new Mac, also consider the possibilities and advantages of upgrading your existing machine, either to save money or to keep it going alongside the new one. Read on as we show you how to upgrade your Mac.

> "If you're thinking about buying a new Mac, you should consider the possibilities and advantages of upgrading your existing machine"

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP LIGHTROOM 2
Library | Develop | Slideshow | Print | Web
Histogram
R 9.8 G 13.2 B 3.2 %
Basic
Treatment : Color Grayscale
WB : As Shot
Temp 4400
Tint + 13
Tone Auto
Exposure 0.00
Recovery 0
Fill Light 0
Blacks 20
Brightness + 50
Contrast + 25
Presence
Clarity 0
Vibrance 0
Saturation 0
Tone Curve
HSL / Color / Grayscale
All
Green
Previous
Reset
MacBook

Upgrade or buy?

Weigh up what's best for you – an upgrade or a sparkling new Mac?

QUICK TIP

Faster AirPort speed

Many Macs with Intel Core 2 Duo processors and all AirPort-enabled Mac Pros have wireless cards capable of using the new 802.11n protocol, which is faster than older standards. In some models the functionality is disabled but can be enabled by purchasing the *AirPort Extreme 802.11n Enabler* software from the Apple Store for £1.25.

Right: An old Power Mac G3 would benefit from a processor upgrade to give it a boost.

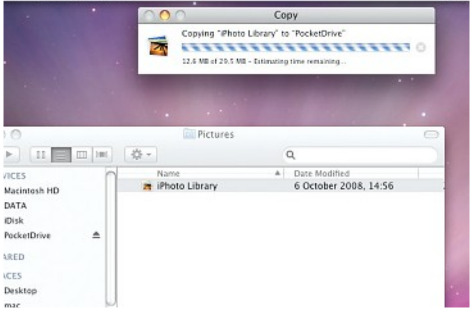
Before you rush out and start spending, it's well worth weighing up the pros and cons of upgrading versus buying a new Mac. This will depend on what you really want to get out of your upgrade. If you have a G4 tower, for example, and are really struggling to run the software you want, buying and fitting a new CPU, more RAM and larger hard drives might work out more expensive or comparable to buying a new iMac or Mac mini. If you don't need the PCI slots of a tower, by buying new you will get a new warranty and a very slick piece of kit. The Intel processors in all new Macs also trounce even the fastest G4 upgrade card you could buy, if we're being honest.

Compared to a decade ago, Macs are now a lot cheaper and their performance far better than anyone could have guessed at that time. Consumer models like the MacBook and Mac mini, aggressively priced to lure switchers away from PCs, sell incredibly well and have specs not so far removed from the Pro portables and iMac. The Mac Pro, though not exactly cheap, is an absolute powerhouse with eight processor cores as standard and the ability to hold a colossal amount of RAM and internal storage. Another factor to bear in mind is that as time goes on, Apple will eventually phase out support for PowerPC processors from its newest operating systems. Some believe this could even be the case with Mac OS X 10.6, which will be optimised for Intel CPUs. It's not yet clear if G4s and G5s will be supported but even if they are, you're far better future proofed with a Core 2 Duo Mac than a PowerPC one, not to mention the fact that 10.5 will run more comfortably on faster chips. Of course, if you're quite happy with 10.4 or 10.5 and feel no need to have the very latest system, most G4s – and certainly G5s – will run them perfectly well provided you have a healthy amount of RAM installed.

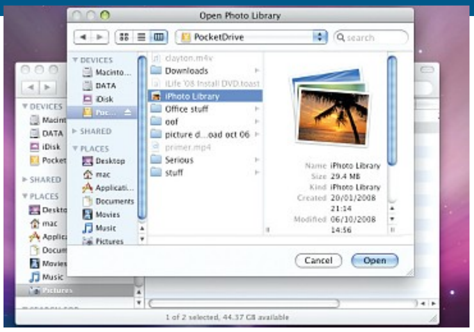
The upgrade path

There are also, of course, compelling reasons to upgrade rather than buy new. Many people are attached to their older Macs not just because they were an investment but also because, unlike PCs, Macs have a bit of character about them, so it's not quite as easy to treat them as mere commodities. In cases where someone has invested a lot of money in a setup – for music, video or printing, for

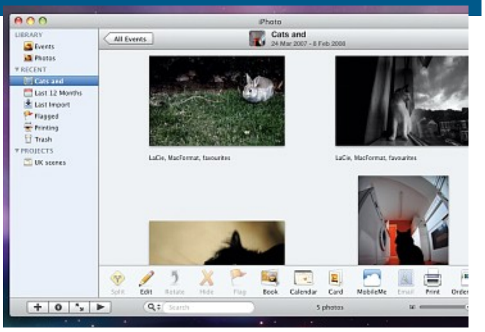
STEP BY STEP Moving your iPhoto library to an external drive


Copy
Copying "iPhoto Library" to "PocketDrive"
12.6 MB of 29.5 MB – Estimating time remaining...
Pictures
Macintosh HD
DATA
iDisk
PocketDrive
Desktop
Name
Date Modified
iPhoto Library
6 October 2008, 14:56

01 Locate your *iPhoto* library which is almost certainly in your **Home** folder, username > Pictures > iPhoto Library. It's a sort of big container file with all your images inside it. Connect the external drive over FireWire or USB 2.0 and drag the library to the relevant location on that drive, preferably inside a sensibly named folder.

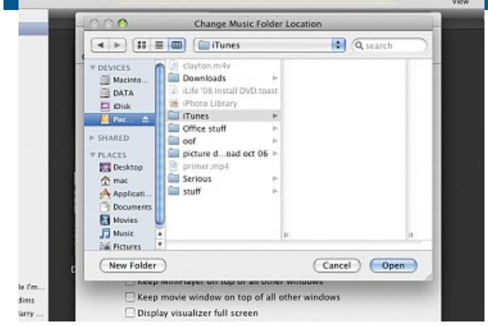

Open Photo Library
PocketDrive
Downloads
iPhoto Library
Office stuff
Serious
stuff
Name iPhoto Library
Size 29.4 MB
Kind iPhoto Library
Cancel
Open

02 When it has copied, start *iPhoto* whilst holding the ⌥ key; a dialog box will ask you to choose a library. Choose this option and navigate to the library you have just copied, located on the external drive. It should now load from that drive and will remember the setting until you repeat the key command to create or choose a library.

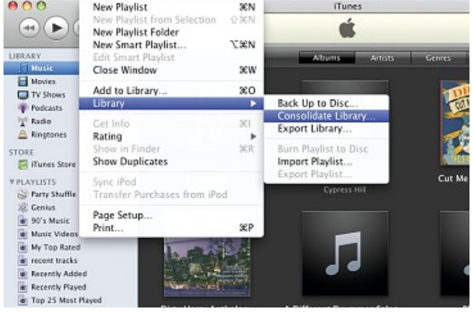

iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
RECENT
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Printing
Trash
PROJECTS
UK scenes
All Events
Cats and
5 photos

03 With the library offloaded onto the external drive, you can back up and delete the original if you like. From that point, when you work in *iPhoto* you will need the external drive connected. Images won't clutter up your hard drive – great for laptops, iMacs and Mac minis, where you can't fit a second drive internally. ●

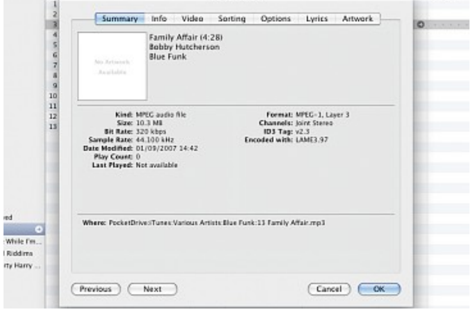
STEP BY STEP Moving your main iTunes library to an external drive


Change Music Folder Location
iTunes
DEVICES
DATA
iDisk
SHARED
PLACES
Desktop
Applications
Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
Downloads
iTunes
Office stuff
Serious
stuff
New Folder
Cancel
Open
Keep movie window on top of all other windows
Display visualizer full screen

01 In *iTunes'* Preferences > Advanced section, choose a new location to move the library to, on the external drive. Also check that **Keep iTunes music folder organized** is switched on. Remember that copying a large music library will take a long time, but it's a good way to declutter your internal hard drive.


iTunes
File
Edit
View
Controls
Store
Advanced
Window
Help
New Playlist
New Playlist from Selection
New Playlist Folder
New Smart Playlist...
Edit Smart Playlist
Close Window
Add to Library...
Library
Get Info
Rating
Show in Finder
Show Duplicates
Sync iPod
Transfer Purchases from iPod
Page Setup...
Print...
Back Up to Disc...
Consolidate Library...
Export Library...
Burn Playlist to Disc
Import Playlist...
Export Playlist...
LIBRARY
Music
Movies
TV Shows
Podcasts
Radio
Ringtones
STORE
iTunes Store
PLAYLISTS
Party Shuffle
Genius
90's Music
Music Videos
My Top Rated
recent tracks
Recently Added
Recently Played
Top 25 Most Played

02 Close the preferences and go to the **File** menu, then choose Library > Consolidate Library. *iTunes* will now copy all the music and videos in your library together with all playlist information to the new destination. You can view the folder and check its size to see that everything has copied over.


Family Affair
Summary
Info
Video
Sorting
Options
Lyrics
Artwork
Previous
Next
Cancel
OK

Family Affair (4:28)
Bobby Hutcherson
Blue Funk

Kind: MPEG audio file
Size: 10.3 MB
Bit Rate: 320 kbps
Sample Rate: 44.100 kHz
Date Modified: 01/09/2007 14:42
Play Count: 0
Last Played: Not available
Format: MPEG-1, Layer 3
Channels: Joint Stereo
ID3 Tag: v2.3
Encoded with: LAME3.97

Where: PocketDrive:iTunes:Various Artists:Blue Funk:13 Family Affair.mp3

03 Now *iTunes* will read from the new folder, and if you perform **Get Info** on a track in the library, you will see it is located on the external drive. You may want to back up the library on your original drive and then delete it, saving you in many cases a great deal of space.

example – it can be that newer Macs or operating systems are incompatible with their expensive peripherals. Imagine you have PCI cards hooked up to top-end printers or audio interfaces, but they only work on a G4's PCI bus and not those of newer Macs; you would want to keep the G4 for compatibility, but need to upgrade its components to get maximum performance. Or let's say the software you invested in several years back won't run on 10.5 but it does on 10.3, a system unsupported by newer Macs; keep the old machine but give it a speed bump.

The crucial thing to consider when upgrading is what specifically you want to improve about your Mac. Adding bigger, faster hard drives is relatively cheap and will give you lots more space for storage, and adding RAM is similarly fairly inexpensive and a good way to make your Mac snappier and more responsive. But neither of these would help all that much if, for example, you wanted to play the latest games. For that, you would need a faster graphics card. Or let's say you wanted to run the newest music or video software. In this case, faster processors would be the key. None of these upgrades is going to do anything negative – adding RAM is always a good idea – but tailor your upgrade choices to the tasks you want to achieve. Running an old Mac as a music server, for example, you can get away with a slower processor but it would benefit from bigger drives and a wireless or Ethernet card to hook it into your network.

> "Even the most technophobic user can upgrade certain things without having to get their hands dirty!"

Faster chips

Upgrading the processor is the most fundamental change you can make to a computer, and there's still a surprisingly robust selection of upgrade cards available for G3- and G4-based Macs and even earlier models. The upgrade phenomenon skipped G5s, but if you're a confident techie or can get someone to fit it for you, an upgrade card can breathe new life into a G3 or G4. There are several advantages to upgrading the processor in an older Mac. You can generally get a dual processor upgrade card, which combined with the faster clock speed will bring a big speed bump over a single processor machine, especially given the multi-processing abilities of recent versions of Mac OS X. A faster CPU will often mean you are able to install a later version of OS X on a machine previously unable to pass the installation requirements. The only thing to watch is compatibility between a card and the specific version of OS X you want to install, as occasionally there can be issues.

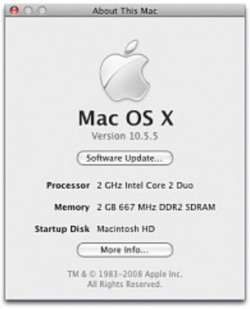
Simple solution

Finally, there is a simple way to upgrade any Mac – just add external peripherals. The most obvious example is a FireWire or USB 2.0 hard drive, onto which you can dump *iTunes* or *iPhoto* libraries, *iMovie* projects and more, greatly increasing the space available to you. If your Mac can't house an AirPort card due to its age, try a USB WiFi dongle to get it onto your network. If your wireless network reception is poor, try a booster antenna to improve it. Plug in a Mighty Mouse or another mouse with a scroll wheel and programmable buttons and you'll have better control over your Mac. If you don't have an iSight camera built in, you may be able to use a digital camera or third-party webcam instead with enabling software such as *Macam* (on the disc). Even the most technophobic Mac user can upgrade certain things without having to get their hands dirty!

Buying a brand new Mac mini could be more cost effective than upgrading your old Mac.

►

QUICK TIP


About This Mac
Mac OS X
Software Update...
More Info...

Version 10.5.5

Processor 2 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
Memory 2 GB 667 MHz DDR2 SDRAM
Startup Disk Macintosh HD

TM & © 1983-2008 Apple Inc.
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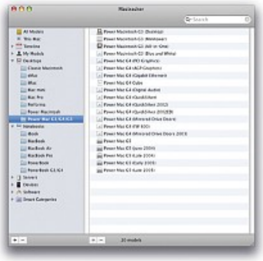
Minimum system requirements

Mac OS X 10.5 has certain requirements of the Mac it is installed on. Currently the slowest Mac officially supported is a G4 867MHz. The installer will refuse to proceed on a Mac slower than this, though it can be hacked to work. Users report Leopard working reasonably on slower Macs than these, provided plenty of RAM is present.

Upgrade your RAM

Memory is vital to your Mac's performance, so remember to upgrade it…

QUICK TIP



Get the lowdown

MacTracker, on the disc, is a nifty free little program that contains detailed statistics and information on every Mac and Apple product made since the early 1990s. You can find your model and find out useful things like how much RAM it can hold, what version of OS X is officially supported on it and so on.

Tower Macs have more slots than other models, so you can fit more RAM.

As technology has evolved with dizzying speed in recent years, one thing that's not changed is the huge importance of RAM, or Random Access Memory, to the performance of computers. RAM is where a computer holds information while it works with it. Data is read from the hard drive, but processors are capable of computing that data far faster than it can be read from, or written to, a moving drive. So information is read from a hard drive into RAM from where the CPU can access it with lightning speed, making using your Mac as fast and repsonsive as you expect. RAM has no moving parts and so can transfer data very quickly.

The need for power

The operating system uses at least 512MB of RAM just to work, and every application or process you start up on top of that uses its own portion of RAM, increasing as that program requests more memory from the system. This is why memory is so vital – the more you have, the more headroom the system has to hold and work with information. In memory-intensive fields like music production, 3D work and video and graphics editing, it's not uncommon for Macs to be fitted with upwards of 4GB of RAM, and to make use of it all.

OS X is clever when it comes to memory management but if it runs out of physical RAM, which often happens when only 512MB or 1GB is present, it will start to write virtual memory swap files to the hard drive. These act as a form of RAM but are slower since they're being written to a moving drive. This is why Macs with too little RAM fitted will exhibit the spinning beach ball of death when asked to do several things at once. The problem is compounded if the hard drive is full, as there will be no space for the system to write the files.

The good news is that adding more memory is one of the easiest upgrades you can perform, and it doesn't invalidate your warranty. All recent Macs support at least a few gigabytes of RAM, even if they nearly all ship as standard with only a bare minimum. This is one area where Apple isn't quite so generous. If you add RAM to your new Mac when you order it, they will charge you a hefty price. A better idea is to buy some and fit it yourself, which isn't as daunting a task as you might think. If you go to **www.crucial.com/uk**, you will be able to find

UPGRADE YOUR KEYBOARD AND MOUSE

Apple isn't the only fruit when it comes to keyboards and mice. Logitech is one of the world's leading makers of peripherals, and its Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser for Mac is a keyboard and mouse combo designed specifically for the Mac. Priced at £70, it is resplendent in white and works wirelessly using a USB mini receiver to transmit data. The keyboard has specialised buttons to quickly open *iTunes, iPhoto, Safari, Mail* and other applications, and is flatter than older style Apple keyboards. The laser mouse works on many different surfaces and has a tilt wheel plus a zoom control, so you can go side to side and zoom in and out of documents. The mouse is also cordless and has several other programmable buttons. Both feature an auto off function to prolong the life of the batteries.

Non-Apple keyboards and mice offer more buttons, like this set from Logitech.

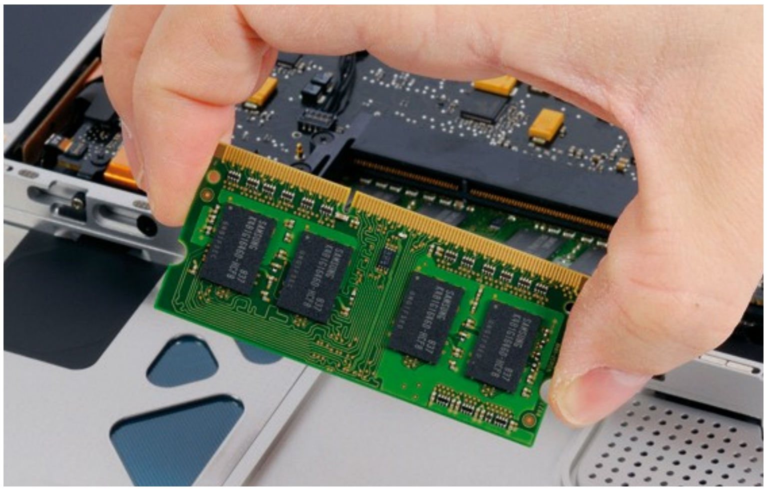
UPGRADE YOUR SPEAKERS

Macs have always come with built-in speakers, though in most cases these are functional rather than anything to get excited about. The good news is that you can upgrade to some really rather excellent speakers to make your Mac into an audio powerhouse for anything from music production to watching movies, playing games or streaming from *iTunes* or web radio.

KRK's Rokit RP5 G2 active studio monitors (£239) are a world away from the tinny old computer speakers you may be picturing, and are in fact designed for professional monitoring applications. With striking yellow cones and front ported for deep bass response, they have 75 watt bi-amps, meaning each driver in each speaker has its own amplifier. They also have a range of inputs including phono, jack and XLR sockets, so they will fit into your home cinema setup just as well as your music production suite. Big sound from little speakers.

Also see our Group Test of desktop speakers back in issue 200 for more options.

Scandyna's Micropod SE Active + Bass Ball speaker set scored well in our Group Test (*MacFormat* 200) and look great.



Make sure you take relevant precautions like only touching your memory modules by the edges, rather than touching the metal strip.

your Mac model from a list, or use its memory advisor or system scanner tools to help you. From your Apple menu, choose **About This Mac** to see your Mac model, CPU and current RAM statistics. RAM comes in different sizes and specifications, so it's vital to get the right kind for your machine. When you find your model, the site will tell you its maximum capacity and how many slots it has. This is important because it determines the sizes of the RAM sticks you buy. Portable Macs, iMacs and Mac minis have fewer expansion slots so you will probably want to buy bigger capacity sticks as you can fit fewer in. Towers on the other hand have more slots so you can fit lower capacity sticks but more of them, if budget is an issue.

Pair off

You will often find RAM sticks sold in pairs. The reason for this is that many Macs, especially newer ones, will give you a speed boost if you install matching RAM modules in pairs. The technical explanations for this are to do with some Macs having 128-bit memory busses but memory DIMMs being 64-bits wide, so installing them in matching pairs lets the system make maximum use of its resources. G5 and Mac Pro towers actually require the installation of pairs of modules, though most other Macs will allow the use of an odd number, with the proviso that you won't get the fastest possible performance from them. Crucial's website will tell you the specifics for your Mac. You will be surprised by how cheap RAM is, and also that you can still get it for old machines, giving them a new lease of life.

> "Adding memory is one of the easiest upgrades you can perform, and it doesn't invalidate your warranty"

Before you buy, check the maximum RAM capacity of your Mac. You can download a free program called *MacTracker* (on this issue's disc) that will tell you the precise technical specifications of every Mac ever produced. A blue and white G3, for example, can hold a maximum of 1GB of RAM in its four slots, so there's no point in buying more than that. A late G4 PowerBook can hold 2GB in two slots, and a first-generation Mac mini takes 1GB but only has one slot. You may end up replacing, say, a 512MB stick with a 1GB stick in certain models, making the original stick redundant due to lack of extra slots, but that's the way it goes in the fast-moving world of computing. You can try sticking the old chips on eBay, but they might not be worth a great deal. Remember also that some iMacs and portables have one chip hard-wired so it's not user-replaceable, leaving only a single slot. RAM capacities are improving, with new Mac Pros able to hold a whopping 32GB of physical RAM in eight slots, if you really need it. New MacBook Pros can hold 8GB but at this moment in time can only address 4GB, which is presumably an issue that will be fixed in an upcoming revision of OS X.

Common sense

Before upgrading your RAM or indeed any other part of a Mac, take the following precautions. Shut down the Mac and wait five or ten minutes for any heat to dissipate. Then disconnect all its cables including the power cable. Take the battery out if it's a laptop. Touch a metal surface to discharge any static electricity you may have built up, to prevent it damaging the Mac's components. Be firm but careful with the RAM sticks as they will need to be pushed into place, and avoid touching anything other than their edges.

QUICK TIP

Kingston MEMORY

Ramming speed

When buying RAM you will often have the option to buy faster memory, which of course comes at a higher price. Although it may technically be faster on paper, in reality you may not notice a huge speed bump in real world, everyday use. Spending the extra money on faster hard drives would be a better idea for most users.

Before buying RAM, use the *MacTracker* app to see how much memory your Mac can hold.

Upgrade a Mac mini

Need to give your Mac mini an extra boost? Upgrade its RAM and hard disk…

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac mini
- A replacement hard disk (SATA for Intel Mac minis; ATA/IDE for PowerPC models)
- *SuperDuper! 2.5*
- Replacement RAM (we got ours from **www.crucial.com/uk**)
- A palette knife or wallpaper stripper, as fine as you can find
- A small Phillips and a flatheaded screwdriver
- And maybe a tiny dot of Super Glue

> "Upgrading a Mac mini's RAM and hard disk is not for the faint hearted; this is advanced Mac surgery"

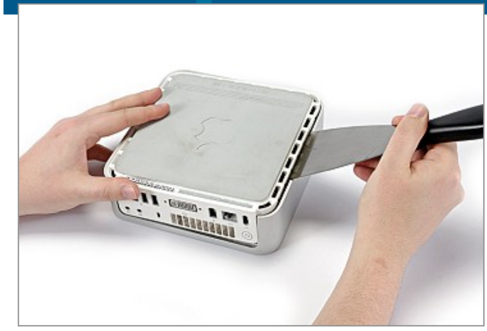
Upgrading RAM and hard disks in a desktop Mac is easy – look at the innovative swing-out Outrigger motherboard of the Power Mac 7200 – but the Mac mini is trickier. Those very qualities that make it so cute – the compact laptop-style components tightly packed into a small case – make it a difficult beast to tinker with. And that's a shame, as the mini could do with a boost.

We'll show you how to disassemble a mini and replace its RAM and hard disk; you don't have to do both at the same time, but since cracking the case on the mini can be a nightmare, it's worth doing both. The Mac we're operating on is a 1.5GHz Intel Core Solo, but the internal architecture is similar for any model.

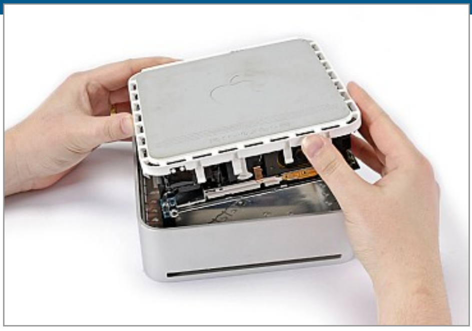
If you're replacing the hard disk, clone the contents to the replacement disk using a USB enclosure and *SuperDuper!* (**www.shirt-pocket.com**) or *Carbon Copy Cloner* (**www.bombich.com**) first.

This is not for the faint hearted; this is advanced Mac surgery. Take things slowly and methodically. Be careful, and take all the usual anti-static precautions (see Expert Tip 1, below right).

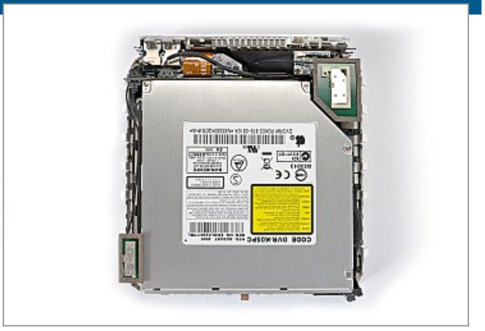
STEP BY STEP Give your Mac mini more power



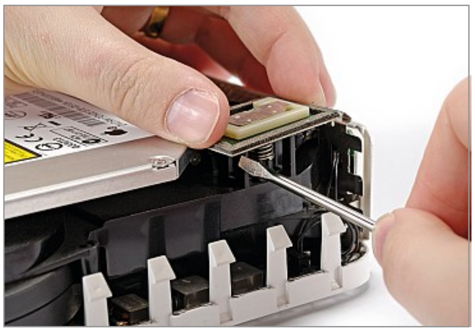
01 You'll need the thinnest palette knife you can find. Ideally, get a fairly stiff one and sand down the edge. Slip it down between the silver case and white plastic and ease it away from the mini. You need a surprising amount of force. A sickening crack and jolt lets you know that you've released the plastic tabs holding the case closed!



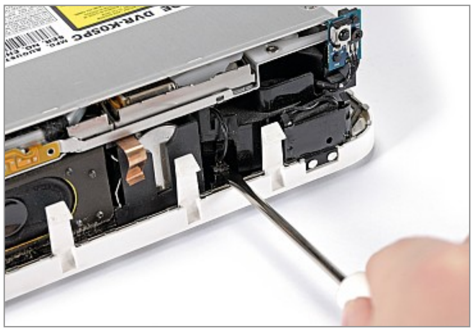
02 Repeat the procedure on the other two sides of the case until the whole top case is freed from the main body of the computer. Carefully lift the computer away from the top case and place it on the desk in front of you. You won't need the top case again until you're finished, so move it out of the way to keep your work area clear.



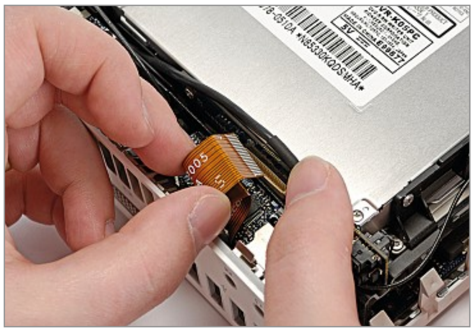
03 Most of the bulky internal components of the Mac are held on a black plastic frame that's fastened to the base with a Phillips screw at each corner. You need to unscrew each of these in turn; it's easy to find three of the screws, but the one at the top-right (as you look at the picture above) is tucked under the AirPort antenna.



04 To release the AirPort antenna, you need to push the two black plastic pillars that hold it in place in towards the central post that has the spring on it. You can do both at once just by pinching and squeezing the two outer pillars, or you can use a tool such as a screwdriver to nudge each one individually. Now undo the last screw.

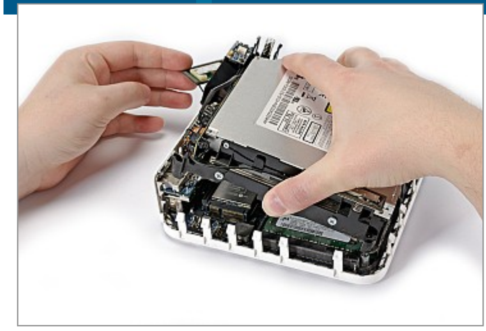


05 There's one other thing attaching the main bulk of the Mac to the bottom case, so you need to unfasten it before going any further. Use a flatheaded screwdriver to jiggle the connection up and out of its socket. Remember to reattach this connection when you're reassembling the Mac mini!

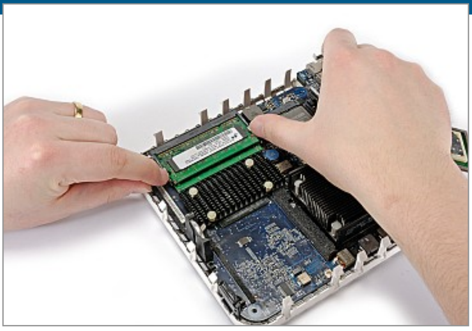


06 In theory, now you can lift the main body of internals up and place it upside down on the desk next to the base, but there is in fact one ribbon cable still connecting the two. If you're careful, you can 'hinge' the internals back without removing this, but you might find it comes loose anyway. Either way, be careful with it.

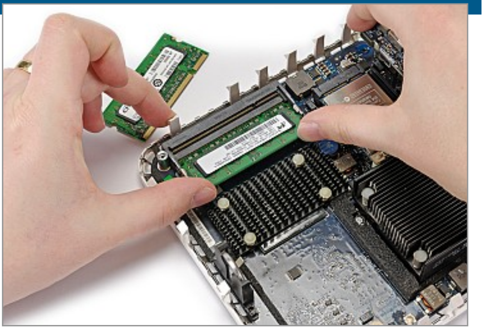
STEP BY STEP Give your Mac mini more power… continued



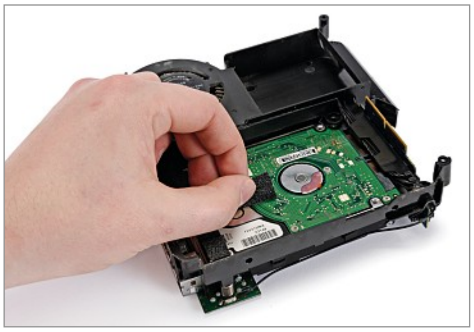
07 If you do disconnect the ribbon cable, you can now gingerly begin to lift the black frame – containing the optical drive, hard drive and heat management stuff – away from the base. Take care to see that no wires are being snagged; pay particular attention to the AirPort antenna and the cable you freed in step 5.



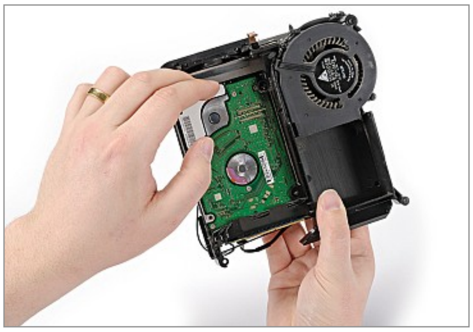
08 There are two RAM slots on the Mac mini, and you should aim to replace both at the same time with a matched pair. To remove the top chip, pull the metal restraints horizontally away from the chip slightly; it will then gently ping up at an angle. Following the angle, pull the chip out, then repeat for the lower board.



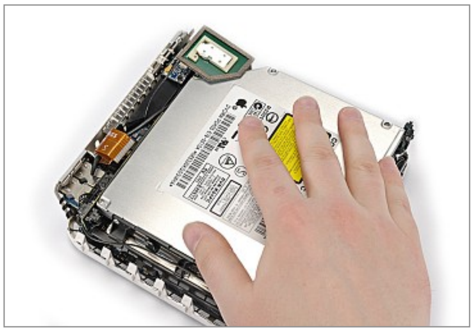
09 Now fit your new chips. Insert them at the same angle that you removed the old ones, using your thumbs to push them gently but firmly into their sockets. Once they're in, push them flat, parallel with the Mac's base; they'll click into place. Remember to handle the chips only by the sides of the board, and be careful to avoid static.



10 Now turn your attention to the hard disk. The Intel minis use SATA hard disks; avoid SATA II if you can. G4-based minis used the older ATA/IDE interface. Either way, you need to slide it out of its cradle. You can grip the foam and pull it backwards, or gently lever it away from its connections at the opposite end.



11 When you come to fit the new drive, you'll find it easiest to slot it firmly into the SATA or IDE connection if you slip the drive into roughly the right place then upend the frame and push down gently so that the male pins on the drive fit snugly into the female ports on the frame.



12 Now it's time to begin reassembling. Very carefully line the main chunk of Mac up with all the sockets on the base. It's vital that you don't trap and damage any connecting cables; pay particular attention to the AirPort antenna, the cable from step 5 and the ribbon you may have disconnected in step 6. See Expert Tip 2, below.

13 Before you fit the top case on, it's worth powering up the Mac to make sure everything's working. If the little light on the front flashes, the RAM isn't seated properly, so take everything apart again and push the chips more firmly into their sockets. If you're happy, fit the top case back onto the Mac and push firmly.

14 You can fit the old drive into the same USB enclosure (such as Tsunami e-Data 2500; see *MacFormat* 195, p90) that you used to house the new drive temporarily while you cloned from the old internal, and gain a handy, cheap portable external. On our unit, you could peel the foam T off to let the drive slip into the enclosure. ●

EXPERT TIP 1

The internals of a Mac are susceptible to damage from static electricity; wear an anti-static wrist strap, make sure you earth yourself before beginning, and avoid static-generating rubber-soled shoes.

EXPERT TIP 2

When reconnecting the ribbon cable from step 6, a dab of Super Glue will attach the clip that holds the cable in place to the cable itself. It doesn't need to be permanent; you just want to hold it so you can clip it into the socket next to the optical drive.

LOCTITE
SUPER GLUE
Control

Upgrade a Mac laptop

Apple laptops are incredibly popular, and it's well worth powering them up

QUICK TIP

Always take care

Poking around inside a laptop requires great care. Always disconnect all leads, power and the battery and leave the laptop to cool if it has been switched on. Before operating, touch a metal part of an earthed Mac case to discharge any static you may have built up on your body, or wear anti-static wrist straps.

Due to their compact size and complex design, laptops don't lend themselves to upgrades quite as easily as towers. This is especially true of Apple laptops, which have always been thinner and far more stylish than a typical, chunky PC portable. The flip side of their graceful design is that you can't pull them to bits without some pretty specialised tools. Anyone who has seen inside an Apple laptop will testify that there's not a centimetre of wasted space. Even so, you have always been able to upgrade at least some components, and as newer models have been introduced, accessibility has improved a lot. RAM is the most obvious upgrade and, of course, batteries are easy to replace or swap.

Apple has designed newer laptops so that it's easier to get to the RAM slots. iBooks and PowerBooks were notoriously tricky to access.

Easier upgrades

Earlier Apple laptops didn't come with wireless cards, and it's possible to fit them retroactively in many models. More recently, Apple has made access to hard drives much easier in MacBooks and MacBook Pros; iBooks and PowerBooks were nigh on impossible for regular users to get at. There are still upgrades best left to professionals, things like graphics cards, optical drives and screens, since they are extremely fiddly and will invariably invalidate any warranty if you try them yourself.

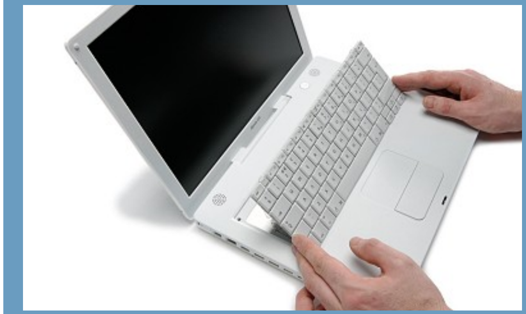
There are still a few G3 PowerBooks floating around and, though they are ancient by today's standards, they are still capable of web surfing and office tasks, even if they will almost certainly have to run OS 9. These models are fairly accessible and by removing the keyboard, the heat sink beneath it and undoing several small screws, you can access its single RAM expansion slot and also the hard drive. The clamshell iBook G3 remains one of Apple's most iconic products and introduced the AirPort card, which along with the RAM lives under the keyboard. Removing and replacing other components is considerably more tricky, involving special screwdrivers, and is best left to a professional.

The iBook G4 and 12-inch PowerBook G4 share a similar form factor but have different techniques for replacing RAM, which is the only easily user serviceable part. On the PowerBook this involves removing the battery and disconnecting all cables (as is standard when opening up any laptop) then removing a memory slot door on the underside of the case. A single RAM chip can then be clipped gently into place and the components re-attached. On the iBook G4, the RAM slot is accessed by removing the keyboard. The 15-inch PowerBook G4 still has only a single RAM expansion slot but it is accessed by removing a small plate on the underside of the laptop. The 17-inch model has a much larger plate on the underside and it is interwoven with the battery compartment. On this model you have to remove the battery and then a metal memory door to access the single RAM slot.

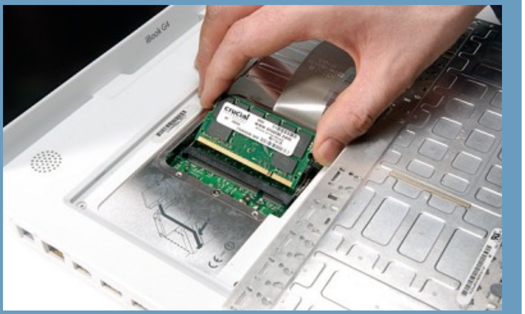
MacBooks and Pros

Accessing the hard drive or optical drive on PowerBooks and iBooks is incredibly tricky and really better off handled by a professional. The same is also true of the first generation of MacBook Pros, where you have to again remove the battery and a large plate on the base of the unit

ADDING EXTRA RAM TO AN iBOOK G4

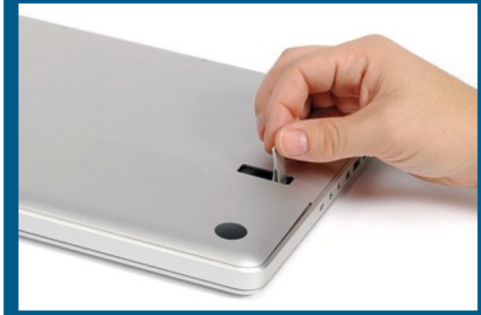


01 On an iBook the RAM is hidden away under the keyboard, but it's easy enough to access. First, remove the battery then slide the tabs at the top of the keyboard forward and gently lift the keyboard out from the back so that it lays on its front. You can now see where the RAM is fitted.

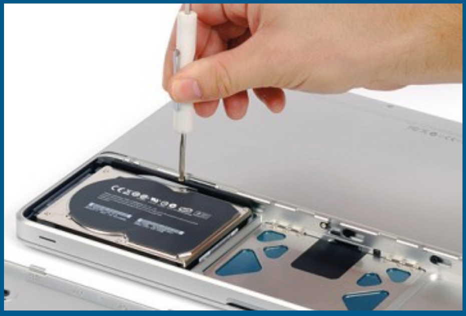


02 Loosen the four screws that hold down the RAM shield inside the iBook, then lift it out. Remove the existing RAM stick or, if the slot is empty, insert the new stick at 30 degrees and push it gently down to seat it into its slot, where it should lock into place. Then replace the screws and keyboard. ●

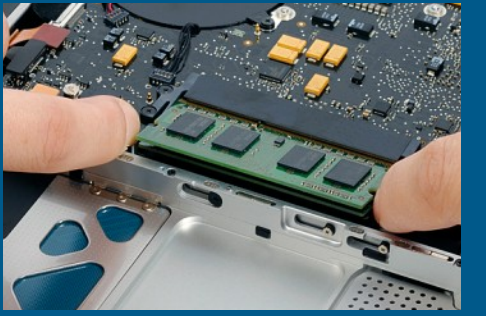
ADDING RAM TO THE LATEST MACBOOK AND MACBOOK PRO



01 Turn the MacBook Pro over and flick the catch up to release the blanking plate; press down on the other end to lever the plate up a little, then remove it. Note that when you replace this component, you need to angle it carefully and engage the flanges at the edge of the MacBook.



02 You can unscrew the drive bracket and then lift out and disconnect the hard drive, reversing the process to replace it with a new one. To access the RAM, remove the eight screws that hold the second access door – the base plate of the laptop – in place.



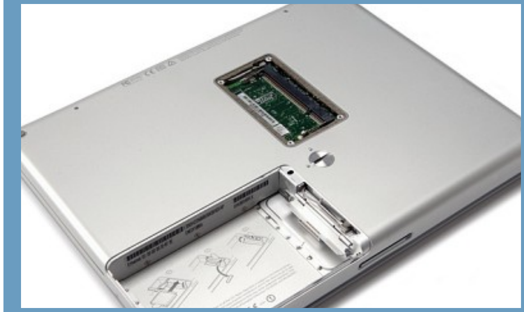
03 The screws are different lengths so keep a note of what goes where. Remove the base plate and you get access to the RAM slot, where you can gently slot a new RAM chip into place, then replace the battery and two access doors. ●

to get at the RAM. Getting at the memory on a MacBook is slightly more fiddly, involving removing the battery and a long, L-shaped RAM plate plus some tiny screws and using RAM levers rather than the usual clips. Once you had done this you also, interestingly, got access to the hard drive, a user-upgradeable component not seen for many years in an Apple laptop. By pulling a tab you could slide the hard drive out and disconnect it, then replace it with another one. Apple also made this a feature of later MacBook Pros, and by removing the large access door on the underside you could unscrew and remove the drive. Installing RAM in these later aluminium MacBook Pros is slightly tricky, involving unscrewing the entire base plate to access the RAM slot. The very latest MacBooks and Pros share a similar design, and so the means for accessing their RAM and hard drives for replacement are identical. Remove the battery access door and the battery and you can get at the hard drive. Remove the whole base plate and you have access to the RAM slot.

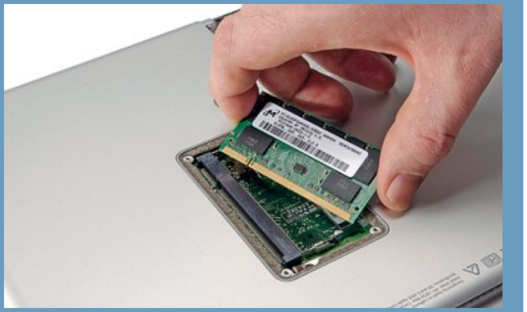
As you can see there has been a lot of variation over the years as Apple has changed its laptop designs, but if you have a MacBook or a recent MacBook Pro you have the option to install a bigger, faster hard drive as well as more memory without taking it to a professional, which can only be a good thing.

> “If you have a MacBook or a recent MacBook Pro you can install a bigger, faster hard drive without yourself”

ADDING RAM TO A 15-INCH POWERBOOK G4

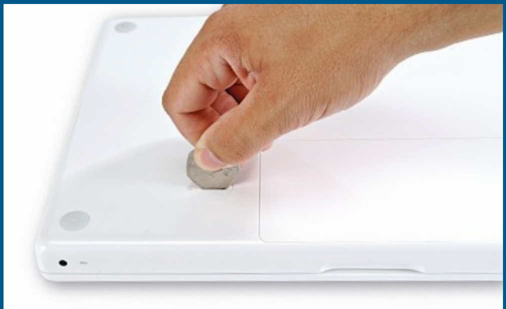


01 The RAM slot in a PowerBook is easy to get to. After shutting the PowerBook down and disconnecting all cables, use a coin to turn the battery release latch, then gently life the battery out. Then use a Philips size 00 screwdriver to loosen the four screws holding down the memory door.

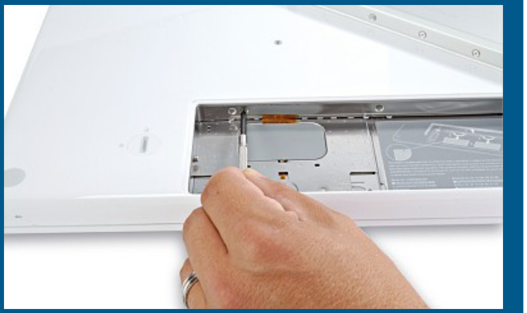


02 Remove the door then spread the tabs in the memory slot away from the RAM chip, causing the chip to pop up slightly. If you’re inserting a new card, push it gently into place until it locks. Then replace the memory door and battery securely in place before screwing the main covering back on. ●

ADDING RAM TO AN OLDER MACBOOK



01 Older MacBooks are also fairly straightforward to open up. First, use a coin to release the battery latch and remove the battery. Then remove the three screws holding the long, L-shaped RAM door in place around the inside edge of the battery compartment, revealing the RAM slots.

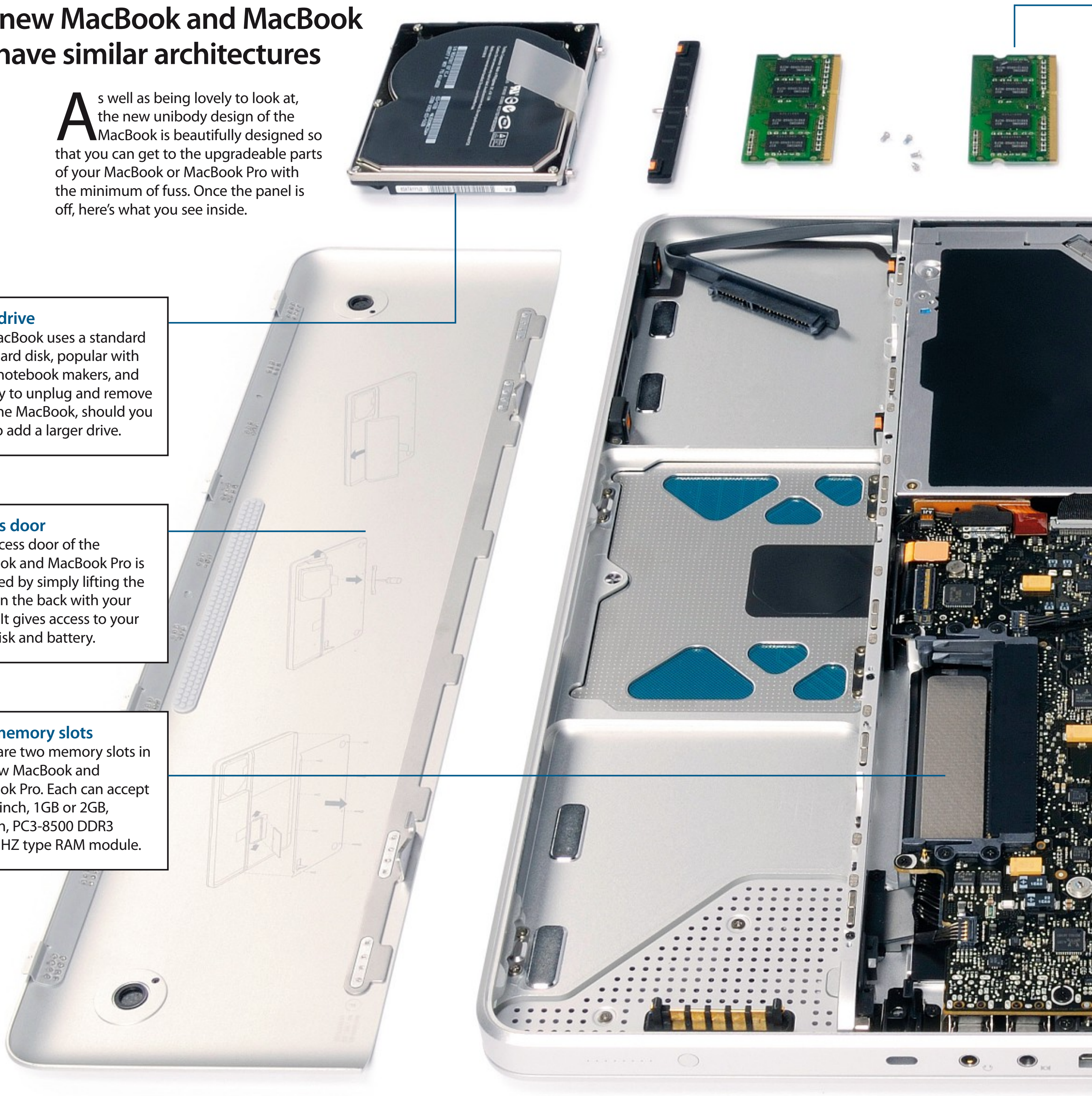


02 Once all the screws are out, use the levers to ease the RAM chips out of their sockets. Gently replace with new chips. By pulling the white tab on the far left of the battery enclosure you can remove the hard drive. Make sure all screws are secured tightly before closing the battery latch. ●

Inside the new MacBook

The new MacBook and MacBook Pro have similar architectures

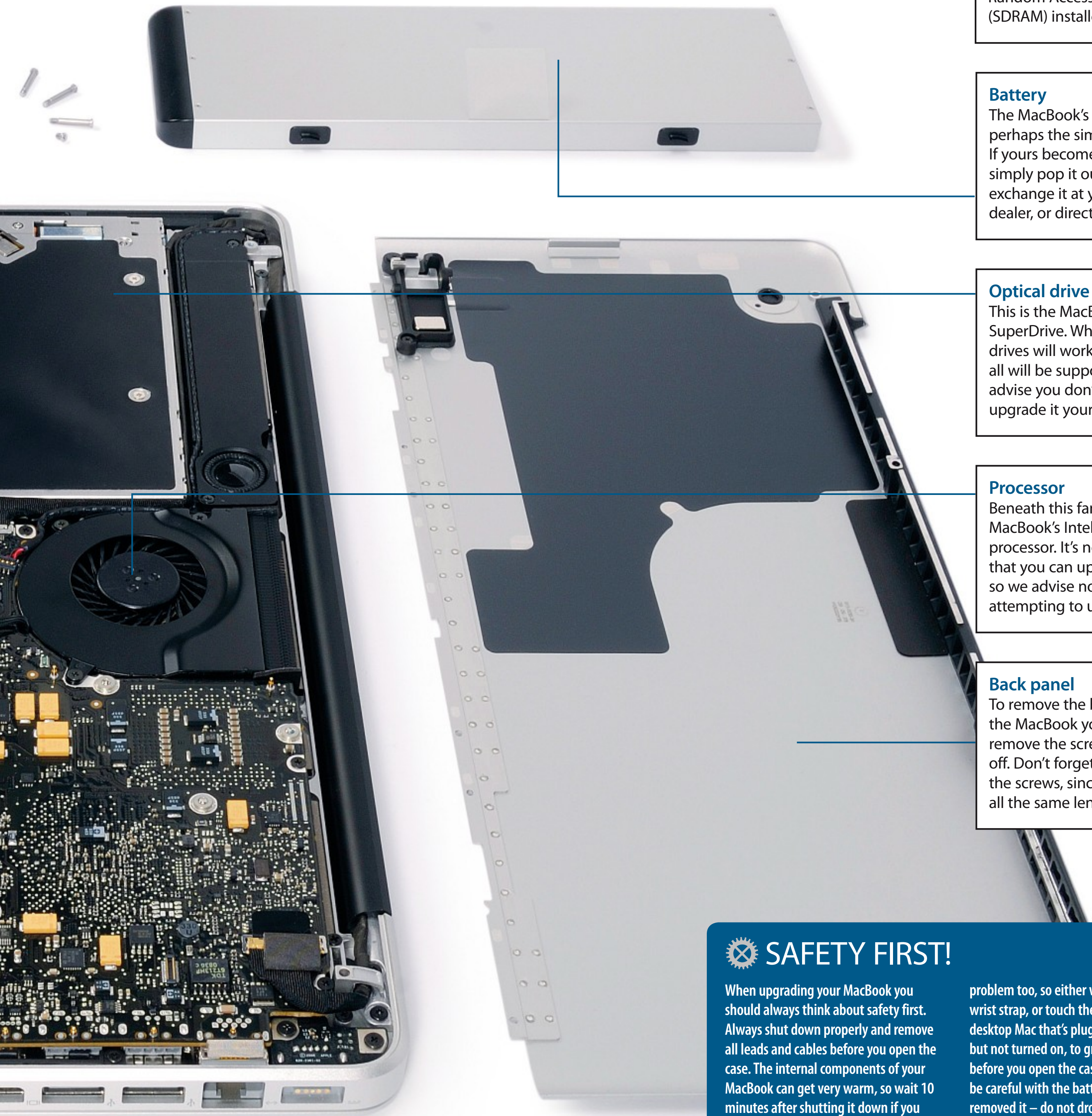
As well as being lovely to look at, the new unibody design of the MacBook is beautifully designed so that you can get to the upgradeable parts of your MacBook or MacBook Pro with the minimum of fuss. Once the panel is off, here's what you see inside.



Hard drive
The MacBook uses a standard SATA hard disk, popular with many notebook makers, and it's easy to unplug and remove from the MacBook, should you wish to add a larger drive.

Access door
The access door of the MacBook and MacBook Pro is removed by simply lifting the latch on the back with your finger. It gives access to your hard disk and battery.

Two memory slots
There are two memory slots in the new MacBook and MacBook Pro. Each can accept a 1.25-inch, 1GB or 2GB, 200-pin, PC3-8500 DDR3 1066MHZ type RAM module.



Memory module
Your MacBook comes with a minimum of 2GB of 1,066MHz Double Data Rate (DDR3) Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory (SDRAM) installed.

Battery
The MacBook's battery is perhaps the simplest upgrade. If yours becomes damaged, simply pop it out and exchange it at your local Apple dealer, or direct from Apple.

Optical drive
This is the MacBook's SuperDrive. While other optical drives will work with a Mac not all will be supported, so we'd advise you don't try to upgrade it yourself.

Processor
Beneath this fan you'll find the MacBook's Intel Core 2 Duo processor. It's not really a part that you can upgrade yourself, so we advise not even attempting to upgrade it.

Back panel
To remove the back panel of the MacBook you simply remove the screws and it pops off. Don't forget the order of the screws, since they are not all the same length.

SAFETY FIRST!

When upgrading your MacBook you should always think about safety first. Always shut down properly and remove all leads and cables before you open the case. The internal components of your MacBook can get very warm, so wait 10 minutes after shutting it down if you have been using your MacBook previously. Static electricity can be a problem too, so either wear an anti-static wrist strap, or touch the case of a desktop Mac that's plugged into the wall, but not turned on, to ground yourself before you open the case. You should also be careful with the battery once you have removed it – do not drop it, or expose it to high temperatures. Obviously, avoid getting it near water.

Better iMac

Give the all-in-one Mac a boost

QUICK TIP

Apple support

Apple's support site is a great resource for manuals and DIY guides for Macs new and old. Some DIY repairs might void your warranty but on an old Mac it's probably expired anyway unless you have AppleCare. Visit it at **www.apple.com/support**.

The iMac has been one of Apple's most iconic products, due partly to its various unique designs and enclosures over the years. However these unique features have also restricted the number of components that can be upgraded by a regular user. For the most part it's just the RAM that can be accessed, since the rest of an iMac's brains and innards are compressed into a very tight space. It represents a consumer-level product in Apple's line-up, where they don't tend to prioritise upgradeability but rather compactness and aesthetics.

The original iMac introduced USB to the world and was the first Mac to ditch the floppy disk drive – a bold move at that particular time as they were still very much in use. You could install an AirPort card and extra RAM by opening an access door at the bottom rear of the one-box case. The eMac (designed primarily for the education market) used a similar method, with the access door now screwed down on the underside of the computer. This continued with the revolutionary "anglepoise" iMac G4, with the machine's domed body housing its workings and a RAM slot on the base. The not-so-clever positioning here, though, made it rather tricky when turning the delicate machines upside down to fit more memory.

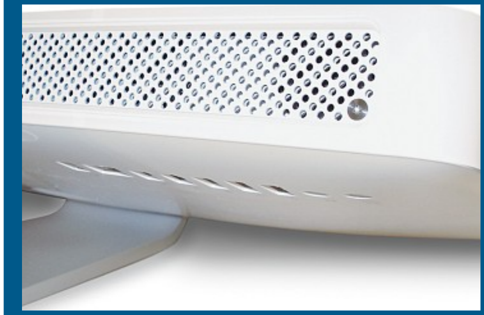
It may look pretty, but the iMac's unique design makes upgrading difficult, with most parts of the components hidden away.

> "For the most part it's just the RAM that can be accessed; the rest of an iMac's innards are in a very tight space"

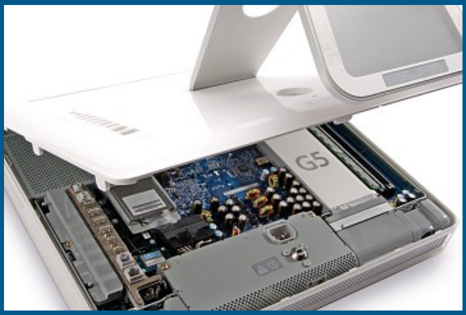
Things became a little easier when Apple introduced the iMac G5, where lifting the entire rear cover off the machine would reveal not only its easy-to-fit RAM slots, but the incredible layout of the whole set of internal components. This made it possible for any brave and more experienced users to also replace the hard drive and optical drive along with the RAM, for which Apple provided DIY instructions.

With the newer Intel-based iMacs, though, we're back to restricted access, with only a simple RAM port on the lower edge of the case easily accessible to the user.

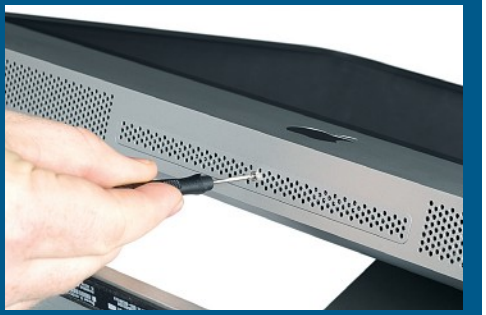
ADDING RAM TO AN OLD iMAC G5 AND THE LATEST iMAC



01 Place the iMac face down on a soft cloth or towel so as not to damage the screen. Lift the stand and loosen the three screws along the bottom edge of the casing. Holding the stand, tilt the cover up and lift it away from the computer so that you can see all the components.



02 On the right-hand side you will see two RAM slots. Line up the RAM chips correctly and insert them at a slight angle, pushing down gently until the clips click securely into place. Slide the rear plate back onto the iMac and re-fasten the screws.



03 On the more recent aluminium iMac, getting to the RAM slots is even easier. All you need to do is undo the screws underneath the monitor to access the memory module slots. There's no need to take the back off the computer any more. ●

Tower Macs

The tower is the ultimate upgradeable Mac

A "tower" Mac means a boxy desktop unit – everything from old blue and white G3s through G4s, G5s and the current range of Mac Pros. The defining characteristic of a tower, and the reason it is always the professional model in the range, is that it can be added to and upgraded much more than any other Mac. Towers have always been the biggest and fastest Macs of their day, with multiple internal hard drive or optical bays, PCI slots for expansion cards and more RAM slots than other models. The design, although impressive, has been less important than the performance and expandability of towers.

Easy to upgrade

The blue and white G3 towers and the early G4s shared a remarkably similar enclosure and you could easily take down the side to access the internal components. Hard drives and RAM were easy to get at and fitting a second drive or more memory was simple. There were limits to maximum drive and RAM size but these were high for the time the machines were produced.

> "The tower Mac is the professional Mac and can be added to and upgraded much more than any other Mac"

Later models also supported four internal drives but still only 2GB RAM in four slots. G5 towers supported more RAM – eventually up to 16GB, and massive amounts of internal storage. The Mac Pro's enclosure changed little externally from the G5s but greatly on the inside, though accessing RAM, fitting hard drives and any PCI cards is still simple. It also has a second optical drive bay and supports up to 32GB of RAM (8x 4GB modules), but at a staggering cost of £5,760 on top of the price of the Mac if bought from Apple!

Towers have remained fundamentally the most upgradeable of all Macs. Even the motherboards and processors in some G3s and G4s including the Cube can be replaced, though it's perhaps a task for a professional.

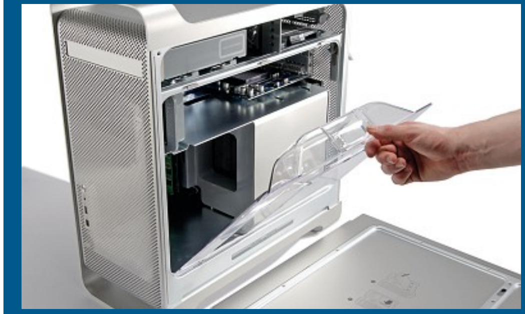
Tower Macs are the easiest Macs to upgrade. All the innards are easily accessible when the side of the Mac has been unscrewed.

QUICK TIP

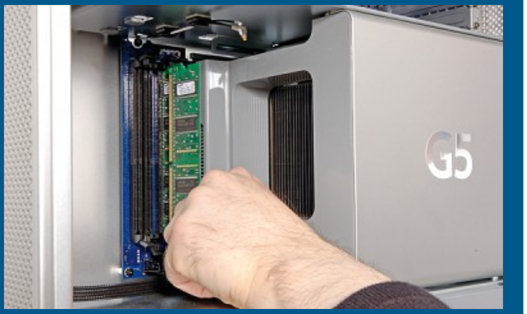
Check your formats

The standards used by Apple for its PCI slots in tower Macs have changed over the years, so when buying a PCI-based card for an older Mac, check it will work. G4s used PCI, G5s used a mixture of PCI-X, PCI and PCI Express depending on the model. Mac Pros use PCI Express.

ADDING RAM TO A POWER MAC G5



01 First, switch off the Mac and disconnect all cables, then leave the Mac to cool for a few minutes. Lift the release catch at the top of the rear panel so that the side panel is unlocked. Lift the side panel off and then remove the internal plastic airflow module.



02 Remove the front fan assembly by gently pulling it at its uppermost point, revealing the RAM slots on the motherboard below. Install new RAM modules by gently pushing them into place. Remember that they must be installed in pairs. Then replace the fan, plastic cover and side panel before switching back on. ●

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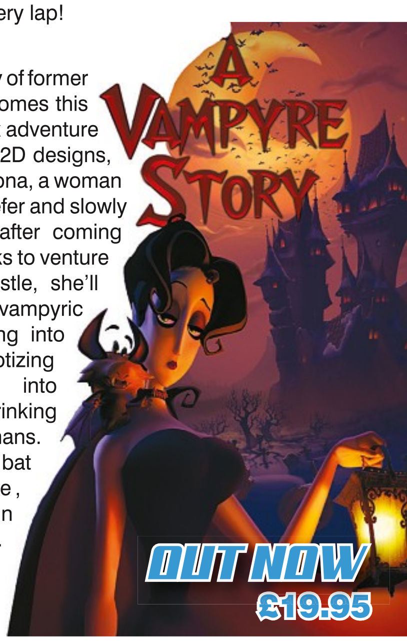
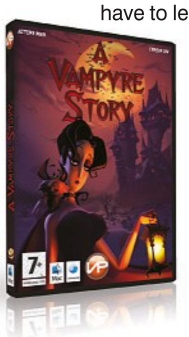
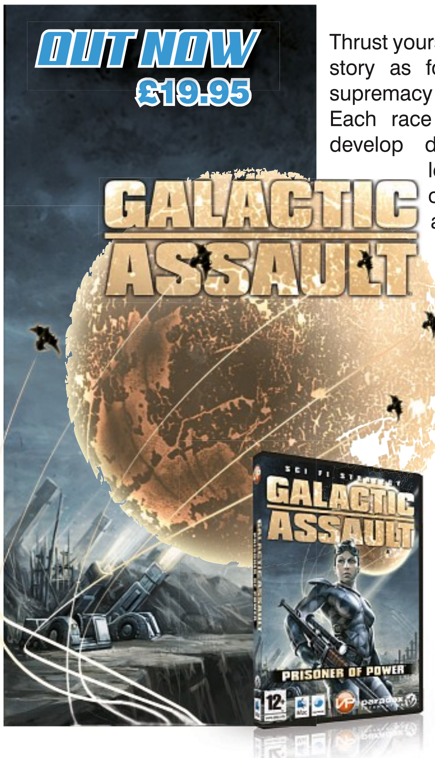


From a development staff made wholly of former LucasArts adventure gaming gurus comes this frightful and fantastical point-and-click adventure game. Combining 3D animation and 2D designs, the game follows the opera starlett, Mona, a woman kidnapped by Baron Shrowdy Von Kiefer and slowly becoming a creature of the night after coming under the vampire's spell. As she seeks to venture away from his gothic island-set castle, she'll have to learn to control her vampyric powers of turning into a bat, hypnotizing people, turning into vapor, and drinking blood from humans. Her friendly bat acquaintance, Froderick, will join her on her quest.





Thrust yourself into a deep and harrowing story as four unique races battle for supremacy on the planet Saraksh.

Each race possesses and can easily develop distinguishable technologies, leading to the presence of vastly different heavy armored units, transport units and aviation units on the battlefield. The battles take place among vivid extraterrestrial landscapes in 3D with day and night changes as well as dynamic weather conditions that affect the gameplay.

In addition to the interesting story line, Galactic Assault offers a revolutionary tactical combat system, more than 70 unique units of great power and high-definition visuals that will immerse players in a horrendous story of war and survival.

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These days, it seems like we're all looking to be careful with money and make our salary stretch a little further, so we've put together a guide to saving electricity – and safeguarding your data – on p62 that should help you out. We cover using the **Energy Saver** pane of *System Preferences* to put your Mac into a low-power mode when you're not using it, and show you how to configure an Uninterruptible Power Supply to ensure that power cuts don't lose your work.

We haven't forgotten about all the creative stuff, though. Mark Sparrow takes you through stitching multiple shots together in *Photoshop Elements* – a handy way of getting more into a single shot without having to step backwards or invest in a wider-angle lens – and we show you how to give your subjects a digital makeover using nothing more complex than *iPhoto*.

And be sure to check out our *Mail* boost guide on p55!

Stitch shots in *Photoshop* **p44**

iPhoto's digital makeover **p46**

Configure **Energy Saver p62**

In this issue…

CREATIVE

Squeeze more into a shot 44

APPLE

Improve faces in *iPhoto* 46
Edit using *iMovie '08* 48
Animate slides in *Keynote* 52

SYSTEM

Tame OS X's Launch Services 50
Turbo charge *Mail* 55
Exploit *TextEdit* 60
Save energy and protect files 62

DISC

Create a simple application 64
Add great features to OS X 66

How to…

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

Next issue

And if this issue's *iMovie* tutorial has whet your appetite, start doorstepping your local newsagent now, because we're hard at work creating an advanced *iMovie* tutorial that gives you some pro tips that you can use with this movie editor. We also show you how to set up *iPhoto* to get the best out of it, and tackle the thorny issue of colour calibration.

Advanced *iMove* tips

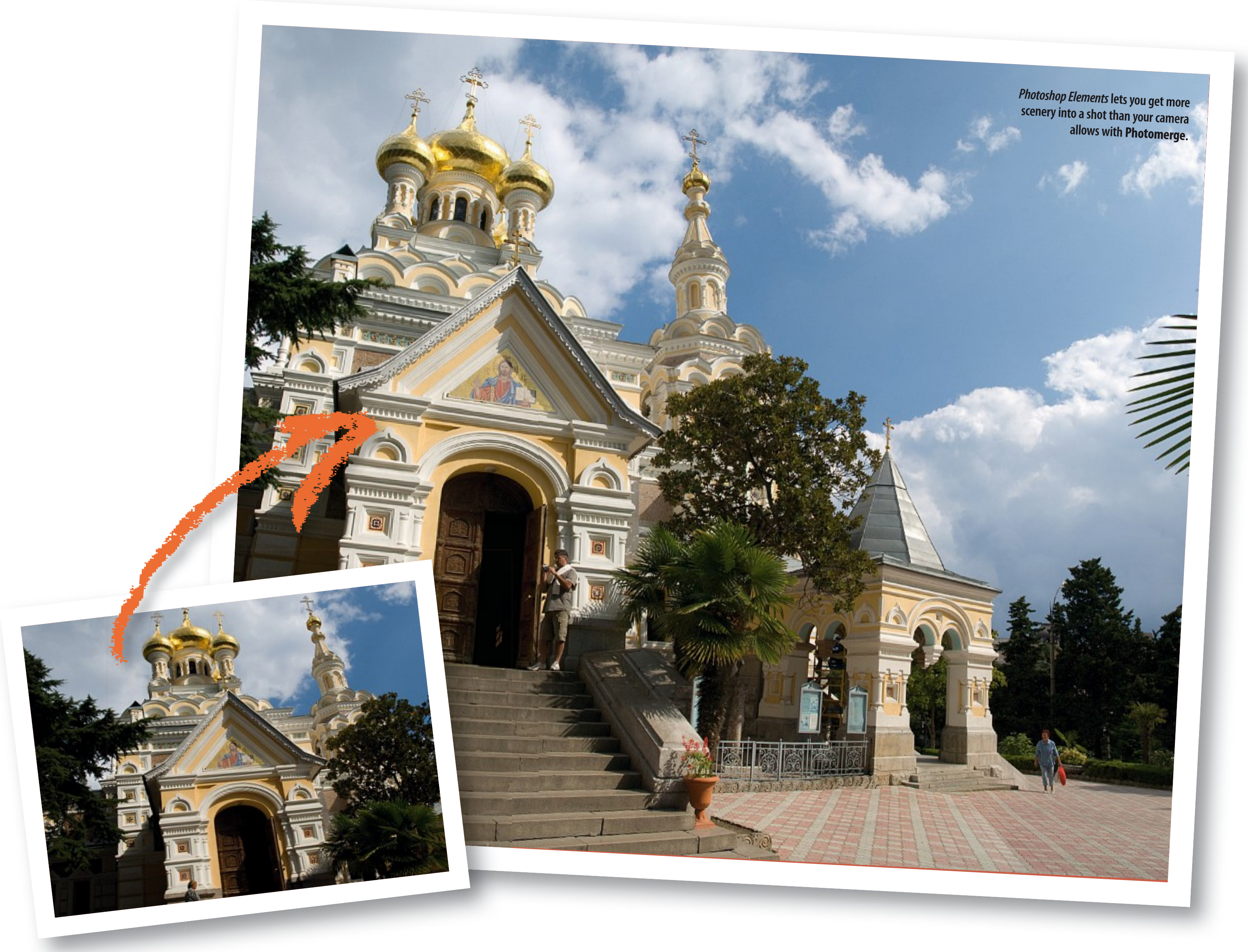
Pick *iPhoto's* best settings

Calibrating your system

Did you know?

Pick the right files – first time, every time!

We've decided to showcase a really basic tip, having done a straw poll and discovered that not many people knew it. When selecting multiple objects on a Mac – we're talking about files and folders in *Finder* here, though the technique holds true for many other applications – you can hold down the ⌘ key to select multiple 'non-contiguous' items. That is to say: files or folders that don't sit next to each other. Holding down ⇧ selects a block of side-by-side files. In each case, click on one file first, then the next while holding down the appropriate modifier. ●



Photoshop Elements lets you get more scenery into a shot than your camera allows with **Photomerge**.

Squeeze more into a shot

If space is limited or your lens isn't wide enough, use the Photomerge option to get more in

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Four upright shots of one scene
- Adobe *Photoshop Elements 6* (£58, **www.adobe.com/uk**)
- 20 minutes of your time

The small inset picture you see above is the ordinary view that you'd get from a regular SLR camera with a standard kit lens. It's not very inspiring but if you use *Photoshop Elements'* **Photomerge Panorama** you can change this. From photographing interiors to making a really good shot of a building, the **Photomerge** function is ideal for widening and heightening your perspective.

There are a few useful things to know about using **Photomerge** in order to get the best from it. The first is to shoot multiple photos in portrait mode. That's right! Instead of shooting lengthwise, turn your camera up through 90 degrees to a vertical format and shoot your subject, being careful to overlap sufficiently. Don't use an extreme wide-angle lens, though, as that can cause problems with perspective.

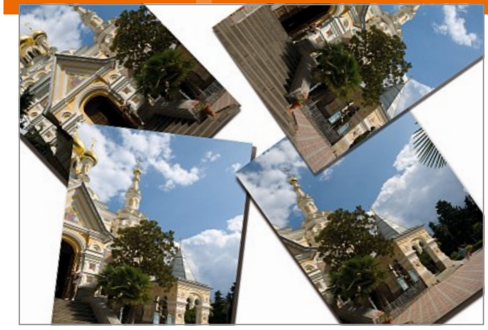
> "Photoshop Elements' Photomerge function is ideal for widening and heightening your perspective"

Secondly, if you can, shoot in RAW mode, or at least set a fixed manual exposure on your camera with a preset focus and a preset white balance. These caveats are important, as you don't want the exposure, focus or the colour temperature varying between the shots that make up your final image. If you leave your camera on auto, there is the possibility that you'll get too much variation between each photo.

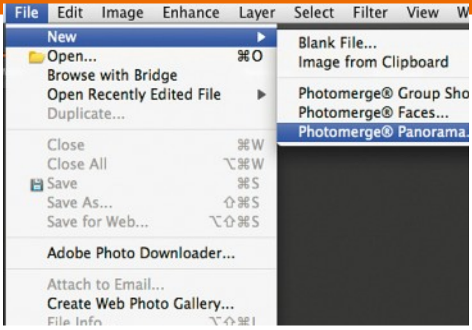
It's also a good idea to use a tripod when taking your shots if you can. Don't worry too much if you can't, but try not to move your position between shots; try resting your camera on a wall or some other fixed point and swivelling the camera between shots, overlapping the view by at least 30%. Once you've got your shots, you can start merging!

Mark Sparrow

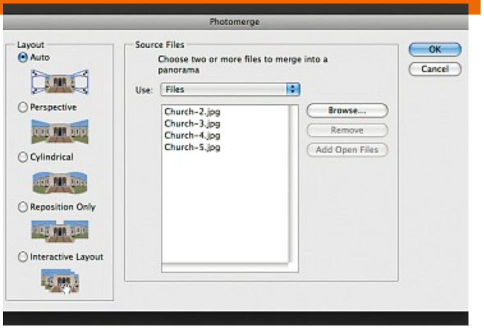
STEP BY STEP Merge multiple images to create the bigger picture



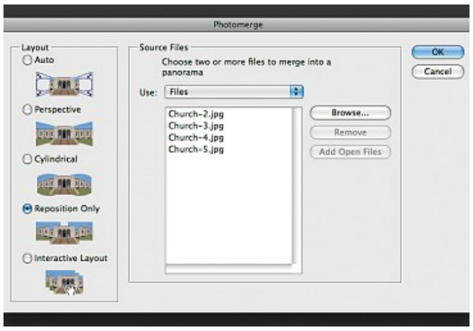
01 Instead of taking one dull shot, turn your camera through 90 degrees and shoot a series of frames from left to right, making sure you overlap each shot by around a third. Don't shoot with too wide a zoom and be sure to fix your camera's exposure and white balance in order to minimise the change from frame to frame.


File Edit Image Enhance Layer Select Filter View W
New
Open... ⌘O
Browse with Bridge
Open Recently Edited File
Duplicate...
Close ⌘W
Close All ⌥⌘W
Save ⌘S
Save As... ⇧⌘S
Save for Web... ⌥⇧⌘S
Adobe Photo Downloader...
Attach to Email...
Create Web Photo Gallery...
File Info
Blank File...
Image from Clipboard
Photomerge® Group Sho
Photomerge® Faces...
Photomerge® Panorama.

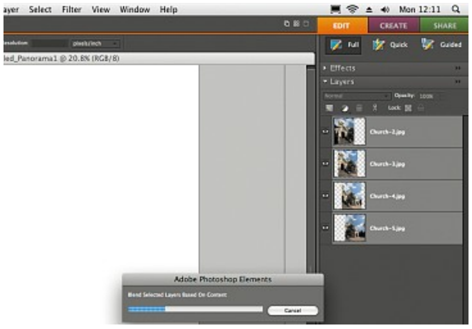
02 You need to put your photos in a folder on your Desktop, and then go to File > New > Photomerge Panorama and wait for the **Photomerge** dialog box to appear. Then select the upright shots of the building or scene that you want to stitch together by clicking on the **Browse** button and highlighting each of the images you want to use.


Photomerge
Layout
Auto
Perspective
Cylindrical
Reposition Only
Interactive Layout
Source Files
Choose two or more files to merge into a panorama
Use: Files
Church-2.jpg
Church-3.jpg
Church-4.jpg
Church-5.jpg
Browse...
Remove
Add Open Files
OK
Cancel

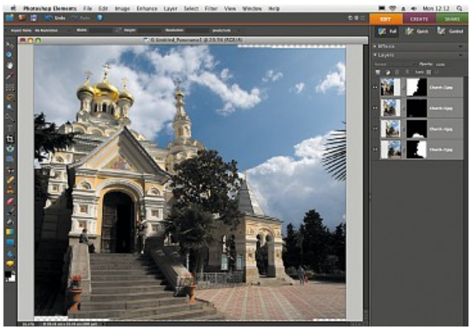
03 Before you start stitching, it's important to choose the correct method. The first choice is **Auto**, which usually does a good job but can occasionally distort. Perhaps the best choice for stitching a building rather than a view is to select **Reposition Only**. This will stitch the images together but without applying any perspective correction.


Photomerge
Layout
Auto
Perspective
Cylindrical
Reposition Only
Interactive Layout
Source Files
Choose two or more files to merge into a panorama
Use: Files
Church-2.jpg
Church-3.jpg
Church-4.jpg
Church-5.jpg
Browse...
Remove
Add Open Files
OK
Cancel

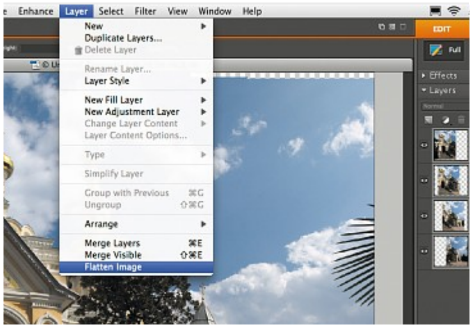
04 Click on **OK** and watch as **Photomerge** sets about producing a flawless composite image. First the various images will be overlaid and adjusted so that the subject is aligned perfectly. Next, **Photomerge** carefully blends the various parts of the image using layer masks. See what's been done by looking at the **Layers** palette.


ayer Select Filter View Window Help
Mon 12:11
EDIT CREATE SHARE
Full Quick Guided
Effects
Layers
Church-2.jpg
Church-3.jpg
Church-4.jpg
Church-5.jpg
Adobe Photoshop Elements
Blend Selected Layers Based On Content
Cancel

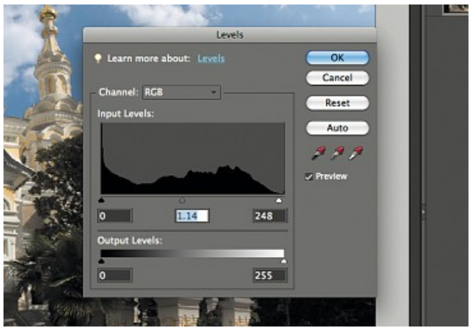
05 **Photomerge** has stitched the vertical shots together into one image. It's a great improvement and, providing your original shots didn't deviate too much in terms of view, exposure and colour balance, the image should look like one photo. There will be rough edges to crop before we can apply some finishing touches.



06 Before you can crop and adjust your image you need to collapse the layers that make up your composite. Go to the **Layers** menu and select **Flatten Image**. This will squash all the layers down into one and you'll see any joins from the layer masks disappear. You have to do this before you apply any level adjustments or sharpening.


Enhance Layer Select Filter View Window Help
New
Duplicate Layers...
Delete Layer
Rename Layer...
Layer Style
New Fill Layer
New Adjustment Layer
Change Layer Content
Layer Content Options...
Type
Simplify Layer
Group with Previous ⌘G
Ungroup ⇧⌘G
Arrange
Merge Layers ⌘E
Merge Visible ⇧⌘E
Flatten Image
EDIT
Full
Effects
Layers

07 Use the **Crop** tool to make the best composition you can. It might be possible to use the **Clone** tool to repair some missing parts around the edge of the image, but in most cases you'll have to crop. Remember, if you shoot on a tripod there will be less chance of your final image having to be drastically cropped.

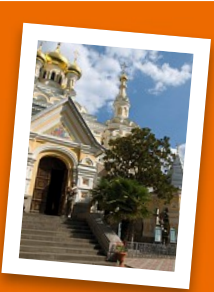

Levels
Learn more about: Levels
OK
Cancel
Reset
Auto
Preview
Channel: RGB
Input Levels:
0
1.14
248
Output Levels:
0
255

08 Check the image's **Histogram** and adjust your levels if you need to. Do this by going to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels and pulling in the left- and right-hand triangles so they meet at the beginning and end of the **Histogram**. Now adjust the middle triangle for brightness. Finally, add a little sharpening before printing. ●

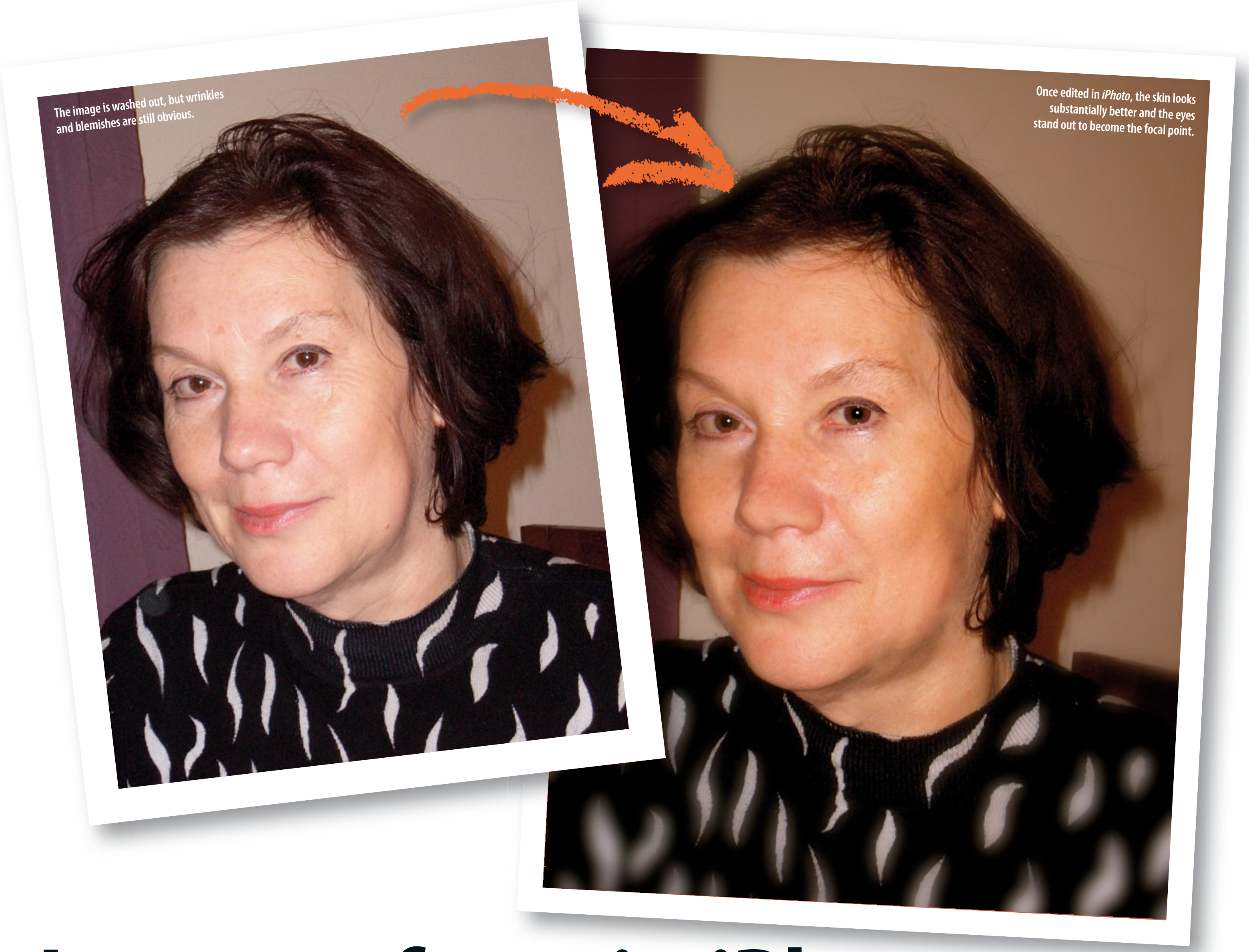
TOOL SCHOOL

You can resize and even straighten images with the Crop tool. Type in the resolution you need in the Resolution box – 300dpi should be fine for an inkjet printer.

EXPERT TIP



Keep your camera both level and steady when you're taking the shots. Our sample here shows how a steady approach reduces the need to crop later on.



The image is washed out, but wrinkles and blemishes are still obvious.

Once edited in *iPhoto*, the skin looks substantially better and the eyes stand out to become the focal point.

Improve faces in iPhoto

With a few simple adjustments in iPhoto, you can give a face a more youthful and brighter look

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor or better
- Apple *iPhoto '08* (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)
- Images with faces that need fixing

iLIFE ESSENTIALS

As camera manufacturers pack more megapixels into each new camera you buy, you start to notice those unflattering little details in faces that couldn't accurately be captured by yesterday's smaller sensors. Acne, wrinkles and blemishes all accompany camera-created issues, like red-eye or off-colours. Fortunately, Apple *iPhoto* has easy-to-use editing tools that can minimise these little annoyances with a minimal amount of time and effort on your part.

Faces that aren't particularly photogenic can be made worse by unflattering lighting. And you can't blame the camera if your images were taken in poor light. Learning to see when light is flattering makes great portraits. Now that doesn't help you on all the images you've taken so far, but many of the problems of poorly-lit images can be repaired or cleverly covered with *iPhoto's* editing arsenal.

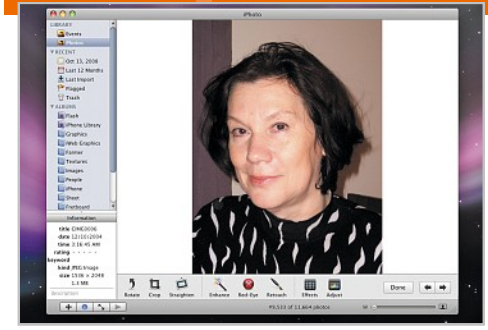
> "Many of the problems of poorly-lit images can be repaired or cleverly covered with iPhoto's editing arsenal"

iPhoto's **Retouch** brush can do wonders to a photograph of a face. It's a solid performer at eliminating spots and moles, removing wrinkles, smoothing flash hot spots and even softening dark circles under the eyes. It's also very easy to use. Once you've tried it out a few times and mastered its nuances, you'll find it becomes second nature to quickly repair facial issues.

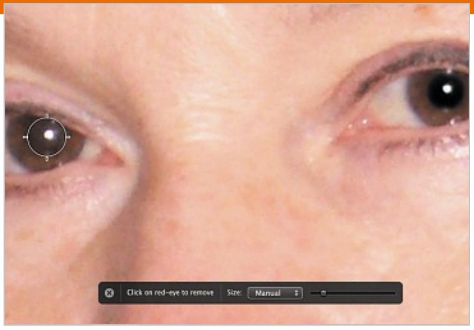
Generally, fixing faces should be limited to that one photo out of the batch that's the keeper. Fixing 20 images of the same face is impractical, especially when 19 will probably be forgotten. It's wiser to spend more time on the best image of the bunch. So follow our guide to improving faces with *iPhoto*.

Kevin J Wolfe

STEP BY STEP Remove wrinkles and freshen up skin tones

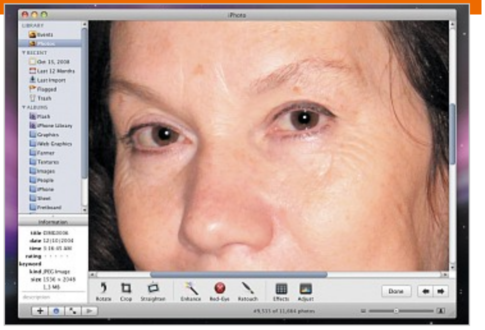

iPhoto
Done
Rotate
Crop
Straighten
Enhance
Red-Eye
Retouch
Effects
Adjust

01 Open *iPhoto* and double-click on the afflicted image to open it in *iPhoto*'s editor. If you have the double-click set to do something different in *iPhoto* **Preferences**, you can click on the **Edit** button on the toolbar or [Ctrl]-click on the image and choose **Edit** from the contextual menu to open the **Edit** window.

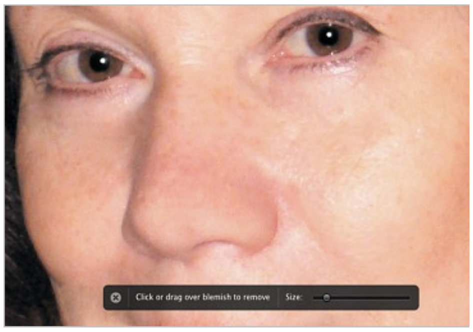


Click on red-eye to remove Size: Manual

02 For flash images, press the [2] key to examine closely for red-eye. Click the **Red-Eye** button if necessary, then click on the red in the eye to remove it. If this doesn't work, choose **Manual** from the **Size** drop-down. Resize if needed and click on the pupil of the eye. Click the **Red-Eye** button again to exit the tool.

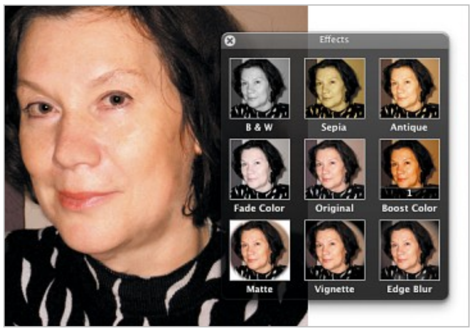

iPhoto
Done

03 Press the [1] key. This will zoom your image in to 1:1. At this view, there is one image pixel for every screen pixel. The photo will appear its sharpest, since the image is not re-rendered to fit the screen. Tiny blemishes that might be covered up by image scaling should now be obvious for editing.

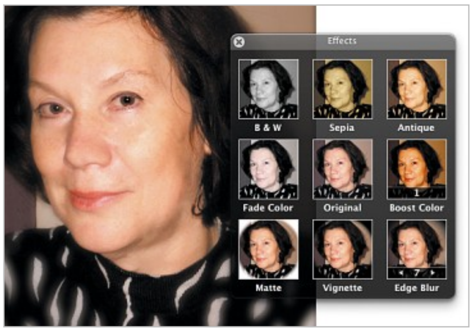


Click or drag over blemish to remove Size:

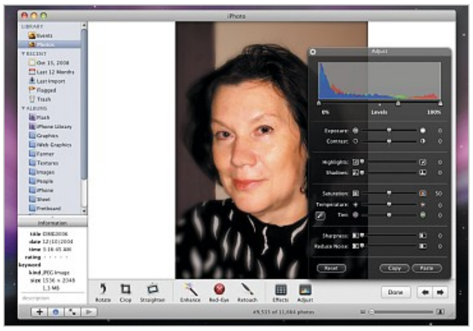
04 Click on the **Retouch** button on the toolbar. Move the brush to a wrinkle or line, click and drag along it. For moles and flash hotspots (check the nose), move the brush over the area and click on it. Resize the brush smaller if you find it's too big to get into tiny areas. Click the **Retouch** button again to exit the tool.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

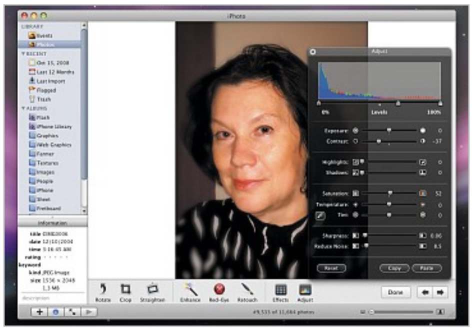
05 Press the [0] (zero) key for a full-screen view, then click on the **Effects** button on the toolbar. This set of tools has the power to boost or fade colour and change hopelessly clashing colours to black and white or sepia. Feel free to experiment with these. If you don't like your change, just click **Original** in the centre to undo all.


Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur

06 **Edge Blur** can melt distracting background details and sometimes cure crow's feet around the eyes. The soft effect also forces the viewer to focus on the eyes, the most important part of the face. Like many of the effects, **Edge Blur** has nine levels of intensity. Click on the x on the top left to exit the menu.

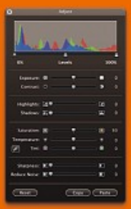

iPhoto
Adjust
Levels
Exposure
Contrast
Highlights
Shadows
Saturation
Temperature
Tint
Sharpness
Reduce Noise
Reset
Copy
Paste
Done

07 If you're still not there yet, click on the **Adjust** button to call up the **Adjust** window. These are *iPhoto*'s most powerful tools. To fix exposure, it's best to use the centre **Grey Levels** slider at the top. Results look more natural than with the **Exposure** slider, since it works on the mid-range tones, while leaving black and white alone.


iPhoto
Adjust
Levels
Exposure
Contrast
Highlights
Shadows
Saturation
Temperature
Tint
Sharpness
Reduce Noise
Reset
Copy
Paste
Done

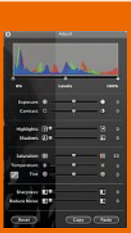
08 Sliding the **Contrast** slider left and the **Saturation** slider right in tandem can soften harsh shadows and intensify skin tone nicely. Sliding the **Reduce Noise** slider and the **Sharpness** slider right in tandem can smooth wrinkled skin and make the eyes stand out. Click the x to the top-left to exit the window. Click the **Done** button. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



It's best to avoid the Highlights and Shadows sliders when editing portrait shots. They're very powerful tools and great for restoring tone, but they can ruin skin.

EXPERT TIP



To colour balance an image, click the Eyedropper button in the Adjust window and click on an area that should be white or grey.

Edit using iMovie '08

Editing in iMovie '08 is very different to its predecessor. We'll show you how it works

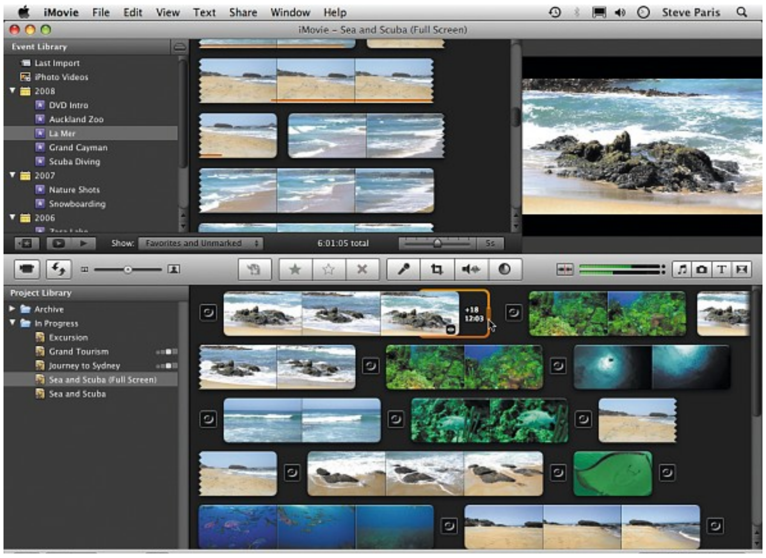
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iMovie '08* (£55, part of *iLife '08*, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)
- Captured videos in Events or in your *iPhoto* library
- 30 minutes of your time

Over the last few months we've covered many aspects of Apple's *iMovie '08*, focusing on all the new features available to you and how to access and modify them to suit your needs. However, during all this time, we haven't taken a close look at the editing process itself.

If you've upgraded from *iMovie '06*, the whole interface is not only completely different, but so is the way in which you need to work to turn clips into a short film. You'll need to forget any prior knowledge you may have about *iMovie* editing techniques.

> "This tutorial will introduce you to the basics of iMovie and help you understand the whole process"


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie – Sea and Scuba (Full Screen)
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2008
DVD Intro
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2006
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
6:01:05 total
Project Library
Archive
In Progress
Excursion
Grand Tourism
Journey to Sydney
Sea and Scuba (Full Screen)
Sea and Scuba

If you're used to editing in *iMovie '06*, the layout of *'08* will not look familiar, but we're going to show you the basics of the software.

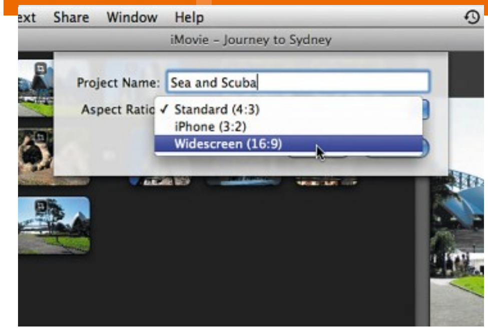
For instance, in *iMovie '06*, dragging a clip from the thumbnail section on the right to the timeline would literally take it from that section. If you wanted to use it again, you would have to copy it prior to moving it. You could do this from the timeline itself but you would then only have the trimmed section of the clip in question, and if you had applied any effect to it, you would have to remember to revert that clip to its original look either then or at some point in the future. All these steps have become completely unnecessary in *iMovie '08*.

In fact, despite its lack of traditional timeline and a project window that resembles a text-editing application with thumbnails moving from left to right and top to bottom, *iMovie '08*'s editing tools are much more similar to the more professional-level *Final Cut* family. This would help the transition to more advanced software if you found yourself serious about video editing and desired more powerful tools to work with.

This tutorial will introduce you to the basics of editing in *iMovie '08* and help you understand how the whole process works. We'll cover more advanced editing techniques in a future tutorial.

Steve Paris

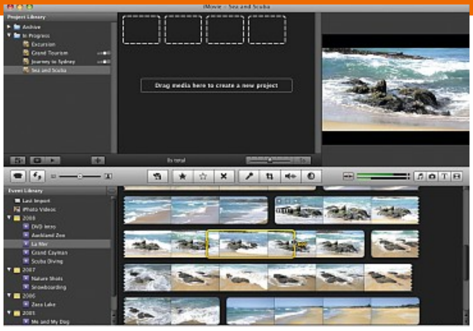
STEP BY STEP Learn basic editing techniques


ext Share Window Help
iMovie – Journey to Sydney

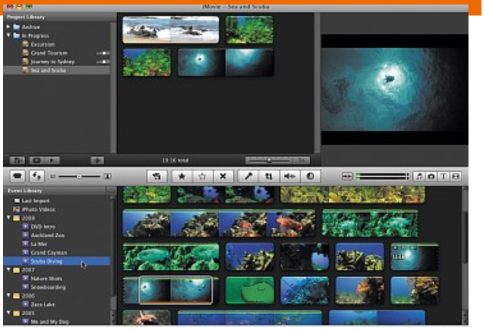
Project Name: Sea and Scuba

Aspect Ratio: ✓ Standard (4:3) / iPhone (3:2) / Widescreen (16:9)

01 Launch *iMovie* and go to File > New Project, or use the keyboard shortcut ⌘+[N]. Select an **Aspect Ratio** of your choice and click on **Create**. Next, choose an Event or your *iPhoto* library. Click and drag inside one of the clips to select a portion of it. As you do, the selected part gets highlighted in yellow.

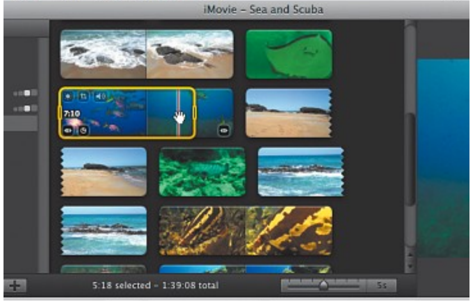

Drag media here to create a new project

02 Little yellow handles are present at both ends of that highlighted section. You can use them to fine-tune your selection prior to adding it to your project. Click on one and drag away from the clip to lengthen it, or into it to shrink it. When ready, drag it to the interface's **Project** section.

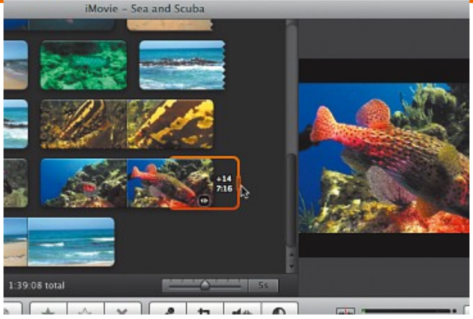


03 You're not limited to using clips from one Event. Unlike *iMovie '06*, your footage isn't locked in a project making it hard to access elsewhere: as long as you've captured it through *iMovie* and it is stored in an Event, any projects can access all your media. Therefore, select another Event, choose a clip and drag it to your project.

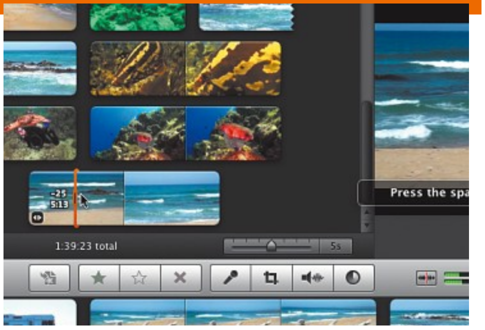
STEP BY STEP Learn basic editing techniques... continued


View Text Share Window Help
iMovie – Sea and Scuba
7:10
5:18 selected – 1:39:08 total

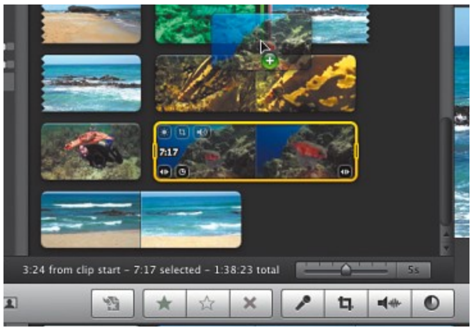
04 Repeat steps 2 and 3 as often as you need to build a small scene, then select a clip in your project. It highlights and has handles just like in the **Source Video** section, but they do not behave in the same way: you cannot, for instance, trim a clip that way. You have to use another method.


iMovie – Sea and Scuba
+14
7:16
1:39:08 total

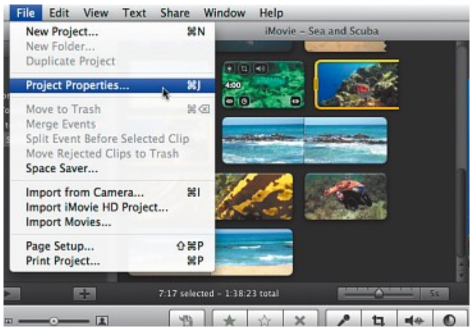
05 Unlike *iMovie '06,* you can edit the ends of your footage quite easily after having added it to a project: move the cursor over a clip to reveal some icons and select the one to the clip's right. A small orange highlight appears on that side of the clip. Click and drag the handle to add or remove up to one second of footage.


-25
5:13
Press the spa
1:39:23 total

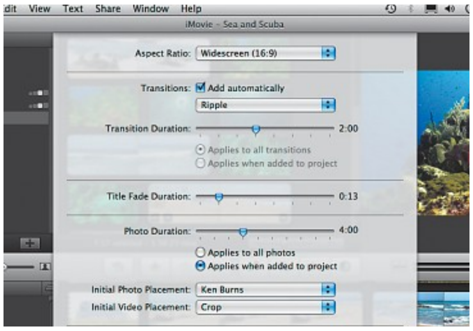
06 There is a similar icon to the left of the clip which is used to fine-tune that clip's start. This technique works because the clip in the project is still linked to the original one in the source video. If there is more video available there, you can add it to the version in the project using this method.


7:17
3:24 from clip start – 7:17 selected – 1:38:23 total

07 You can move clips around within the project easily: simply select one and drag it to a new location. When you get a green bar, the footage will be inserted in between two existing clips. If you release the mouse without seeing that bar, the footage your cursor was over at the time will be split in two and the new media inserted in between.

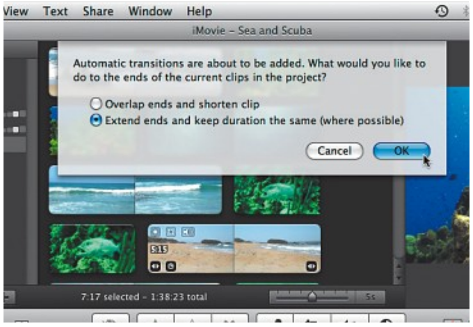

File Edit View Text Share Window Help
New Project... ⌘N
New Folder...
Duplicate Project
Project Properties... ⌘J
Move to Trash
Merge Events
Split Event Before Selected Clip
Move Rejected Clips to Trash
Space Saver...
Import from Camera... ⌘I
Import iMovie HD Project...
Import Movies...
Page Setup... ⇧⌘P
Print Project... ⌘P
iMovie – Sea and Scuba
4:00
7:17 selected – 1:38:23 total

08 *iMovie* lets you work with multiple formats within a single project: each clip will adapt itself to the project's aspect ratio. You can, however, alter the main ratio should you happen to change your mind: make sure your project is selected in the **Project Library** section, then go to File > Project Properties (or use the keyboard shortcut ⌘+[J]).


dit View Text Share Window Help
iMovie – Sea and Scuba

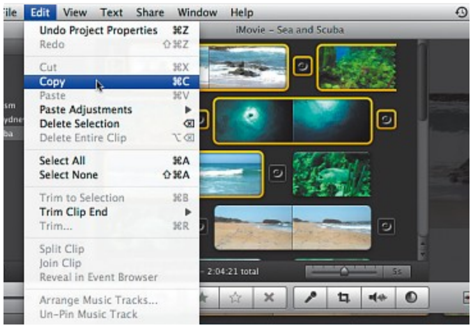
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen (16:9)
Transitions: ☑ Add automatically
Ripple
Transition Duration: 2:00
● Applies to all transitions
○ Applies when added to project
Title Fade Duration: 0:13
Photo Duration: 4:00
○ Applies to all photos
● Applies when added to project
Initial Photo Placement: Ken Burns
Initial Video Placement: Crop

09 From there, you can change the **Aspect Ratio** of your clips using the pull-down menu at the top of the window. You can also use this section to change some other default settings like deciding which transition to add automatically and how long it should last. Change both of these settings, tick the **Add automatically** box and click on **OK**.


View Text Share Window Help
iMovie – Sea and Scuba
Cancel
OK
5:15
7:17 selected – 1:38:23 total

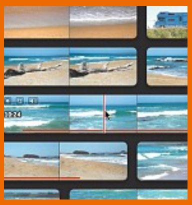
Automatic transitions are about to be added. What would you like to do to the ends of the current clips in the project?
○ Overlap ends and shorten clip
● Extend ends and keep duration the same (where possible)

10 As you do so, you are faced with a new choice: you can decide to shorten your clips by making transitions over existing footage (this is option one, which might end up cutting some footage you wanted to keep), or extend the clips' ends (wherever possible) to add the transition over new footage. Choose either and click on **OK**.


ile Edit View Text Share Window Help
Undo Project Properties ⌘Z
Redo ⇧⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All ⌘A
Select None ⇧⌘A
Trim to Selection ⌘B
Trim Clip End
Trim... ⌘R
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser
Arrange Music Tracks...
Un-Pin Music Track
iMovie – Sea and Scuba
2:04:21 total

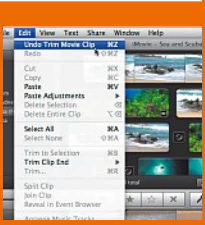
11 You can move footage around from one project to another – for instance, if you would like to keep the introduction the same for each of your films; simply click on a clip to select it and ⇧- click on the adjoining clips (if any). Copy them, select another project and paste them there. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Each clip or portion of clip used in a selected project gets an orange line underneath it in the source video to help you avoid accidentally using the same footage again.

EXPERT TIP


Edit View Text Share Window Help
Undo Trim Movie Clip ⌘Z
Redo
Cut
Copy
Paste
Paste Adjustments
Delete Selection
Delete Entire Clip
Select All
Select None
Trim to Selection
Trim Clip End
Trim...
Split Clip
Join Clip
Reveal in Event Browser

If you're not happy with the results of the previous step, you can always undo the effect (⌘+[Z]). Keep using that command to undo multiple steps.

OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Tame OS X's Launch Services

Customising parts of OS X to work for you isn't as difficult as you may think

PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: Freelance consultant and trainer
System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800).

How many times a day do you reckon you double-click on files in order to open them and launch the application that created them? 10? 20? Maybe even 50? Of course, it might even be more, depending on what you use your Mac for, your preferred way of working, and a whole load of other imponderables. However many times you or I do it, though, it's an action that becomes almost like breathing: we take it for granted it'll work, so much so that we almost don't notice we're doing it. In fact, like most such instinctive actions, we only notice we're doing it when something goes wrong. You might, for instance, expect a particular application to launch when you double-click a file, only for another to take you by surprise by launching instead. Fortunately – at least when it comes to aberrant applications – there are ways to get things back on track: that's what we'll be looking at this time.

When you double-click a file, Mac OS X's Launch Services kick into action, finding the preferred application for opening it based on, among other factors, its file type (JPEG image file, for instance) and filename extension (in this case, .jpg). Incidentally, this applies even to .app files, which might have a flag, or marker, indicating that they need a particular version of Mac OS X; or even, in the case of an older application, the Classic environment (for those of you who still need it, that is). All this is stored in Mac OS X's Launch Services.

> "When you double-click a file, Launch Services finds the preferred application for opening it"

Open With

Sometimes, you might want to open a file in an application other than the default, in which case you can either open the application first and go to File > Open…, or right-click (or [Ctrl]-click) the file and choose **Open With**. If you do the latter, you'll see the default application at the top of the list (with the word 'default' next to it in parentheses), followed by a list of other applications you can use to open the file.

There might be other occasions when you need to change the default application for opening particular file types; if, for instance, you've just installed a new application such as *Photoshop Elements*, and want all JPEG images to open in the latter rather than *Preview*. In this case, single-click one of your JPEG files, go to File > Get Info… (or use the ⌘+[I] keyboard shortcut) to bring up the file's **Info** box, then:

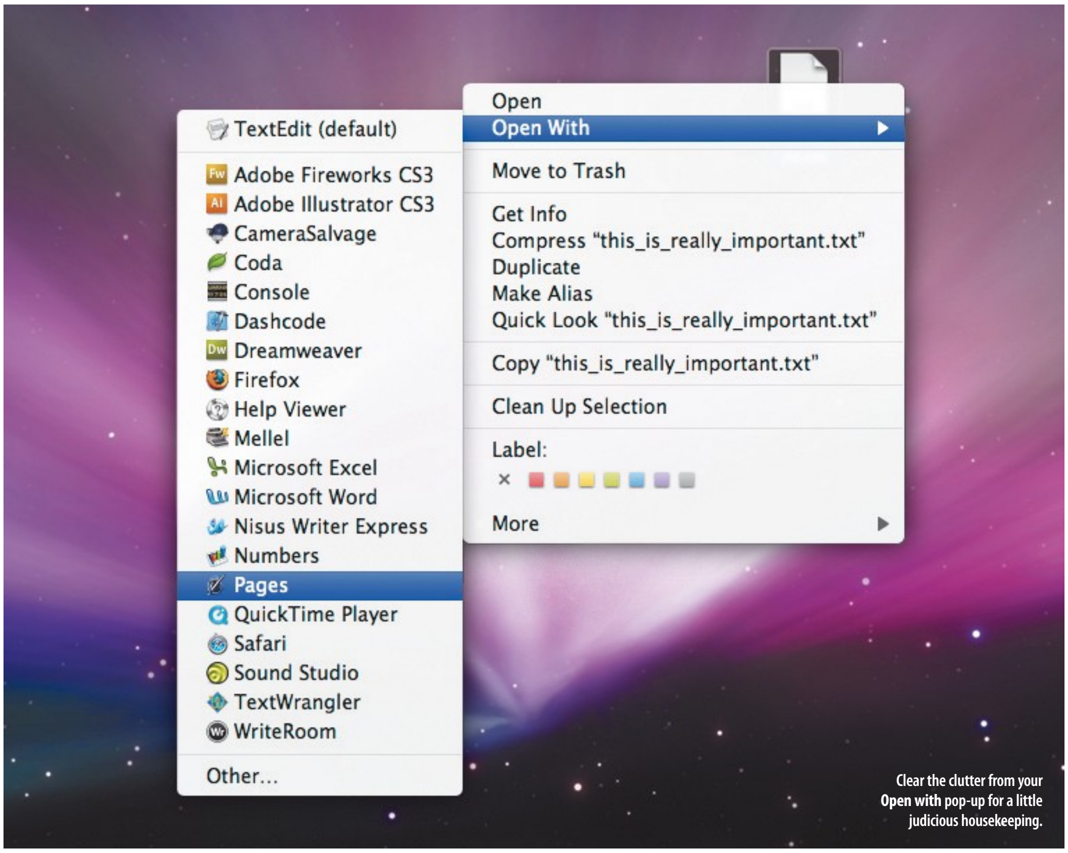
1) Click the disclosure triangle next to **Open With**
2) Choose your new default application from the pop-up menu
3) Click the **Change All…** button to make your chosen application the new default
4) Close the **Info** box.

Finally, sometimes when you open up an **Info** box you might find the **Open With** pop-up festooned with multiple versions of applications (*Preview*, for instance), or even applications that are no longer installed. In this case, in order to restore some order to the list, not to mention your sanity, you can rebuild the Launch Services Database. To do this, launch *Terminal* (from Applications > Utilities), then type:

```
/System/Library/Frameworks/CoreServices.framework/
Versions/A/Frameworks/LaunchServices.framework/
Versions/A/Support/lsregister -kill -r -domain local
-domain system -domain user
```

before hitting the [Enter] key.

If you're not too chuffed at the possibility of using a shell script in *Terminal*, *TinkerTool System* (approx £6.50, from **www.bresink.com/osx/TinkerToolSys.html**) will do the job for you. ●


TextEdit (default)
Adobe Fireworks CS3
Adobe Illustrator CS3
CameraSalvage
Coda
Console
Dashcode
Dreamweaver
Firefox
Help Viewer
Mellel
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft Word
Nisus Writer Express
Numbers
Pages
QuickTime Player
Safari
Sound Studio
TextWrangler
WriteRoom
Other…
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "this_is_really_important.txt"
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "this_is_really_important.txt"
Copy "this_is_really_important.txt"
Clean Up Selection
Label:
×
More

Clear the clutter from your **Open with** pop-up for a little judicious housekeeping.

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Animate slides in Keynote

Apple Keynote presentation software has very powerful tools to animate objects on your slides

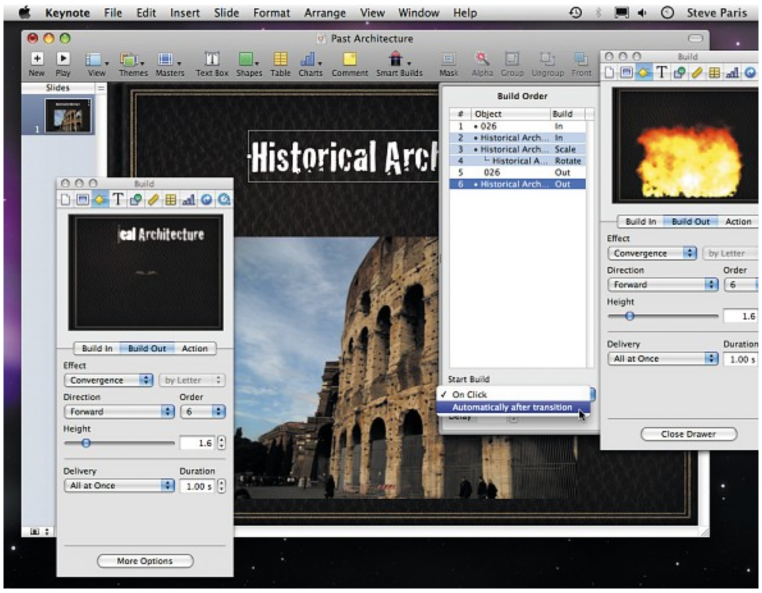
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *Keynote 4.0.3* (£55, part of *iWork '08*, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)
- Some pictures in *iPhoto*
- 30 minutes of your time

When Apple unveiled *Keynote* back in January 2003, it introduced film-quality effects and transitions that were a far cry from what people were used to with Microsoft *PowerPoint* presentations. It also solved the mystery of what Steve Jobs had been using in his own Macworld keynote speeches for a while, since no one could replicate what he was achieving with Microsoft's application.

Five years and three versions later, *Keynote* has become an incredibly powerful presentation tool, filled with many features designed to make your projects stand out and look visually exciting. There are even ways of exporting the various slides as *QuickTime* movies so that they can be used in other applications, further increasing its value to people who don't need to create presentations. While *Keynote* is constantly advancing, *PowerPoint* looks more and more antiquated with each passing year.

> "While Keynote is constantly advancing, PowerPoint looks more antiquated with each passing year"


Keynote File Edit Insert Slide Format Arrange View Window Help
Steve Paris
Past Architecture
Historical Arch
Build Order
Build In Build Out Action
Effect
Convergence
Direction
Forward
Order
Height
Delivery
All at Once
Duration
Start Build
On Click
Automatically after transition
Close Drawer
More Options

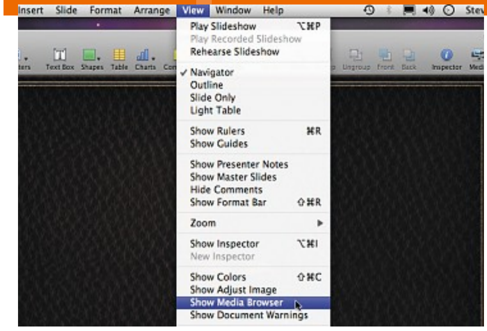
Even if you've never made a presentation before, *Keynote* makes the job simple and gives you more options than *PowerPoint*.

Like other Apple applications, *Keynote* is designed to be easy to use. You can, in fact, create slides in seconds and still have something that looks better than something made with competing software. But the real power of *Keynote* lies in its customisability, especially when it comes to animating text and objects. If you're the type of person who likes to have hands-on control over how objects move across the screen, then you'll appreciate the power that is present just a few clicks away from the regular interface.

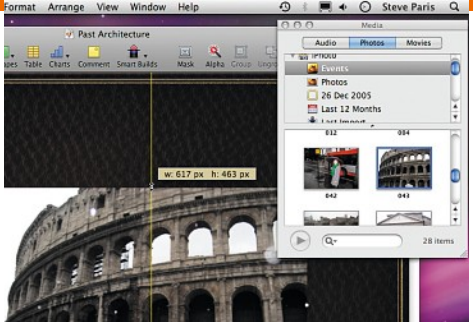
This tutorial will focus on this area, showing you how to build a simple animation designed to introduce an object on the screen. We will then move on to more complex ideas and show you just how versatile, while remaining easy to use, this application can be.

Steve Paris

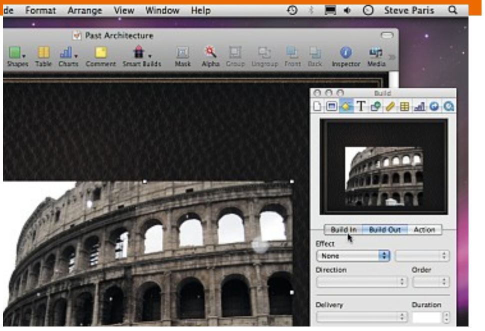
STEP BY STEP Create simple and complex animations using Keynote's Build tool


Insert Slide Format Arrange View Window Help
Play Slideshow
Play Recorded Slideshow
Rehearse Slideshow
Navigator
Outline
Slide Only
Light Table
Show Rulers
Show Guides
Show Presenter Notes
Show Master Slides
Hide Comments
Show Format Bar
Zoom
Show Inspector
New Inspector
Show Colors
Show Adjust Image
Show Media Browser
Show Document Warnings

01 Launch *Keynote* and create a new presentation (choose one of the basic themes). Let's start with a clean slate: select the default text boxes along with any placeholder images and delete them. To add a still image from your *iPhoto* or *Aperture* library (or even from *Photo Booth*), go to View > Show Media Browser.

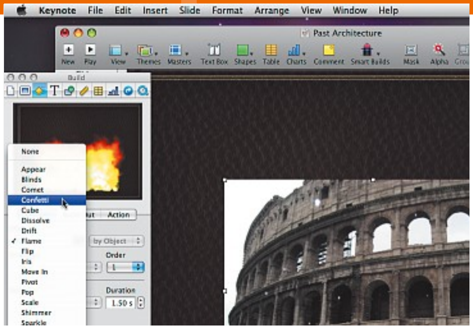

Format Arrange View Window Help
Steve Paris
Past Architecture
Media
Audio Photos Movies
Events
Photos
26 Dec 2005
Last 12 Months
w: 617 px h: 463 px
28 items

02 Select a photo of your choice and drag it onto the *Keynote* slide. You can resize it by clicking and dragging on one of its corner handles (shaped like little white squares). By default, you cannot distort this image; no matter how you resize it, its original dimensions are preserved (you can alter this in the **Inspector**'s **Metrics** tab).

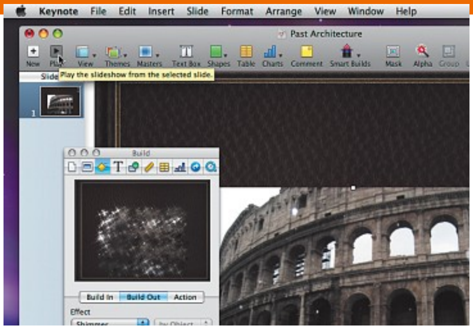

Format Arrange View Window Help
Steve Paris
Past Architecture
Build
Build In Build Out Action
Effect
None
Direction
Order
Delivery
Duration

03 Nothing much is happening with our image yet. To have some fun with it, invoke the **Inspector** by using the ⌘+⌥+[I] keyboard shortcut. Select the **Build** tab (third from the left). You can now see a preview of the slide and beneath it are three options. Select the first one – **Build In** – and make sure your image is selected.

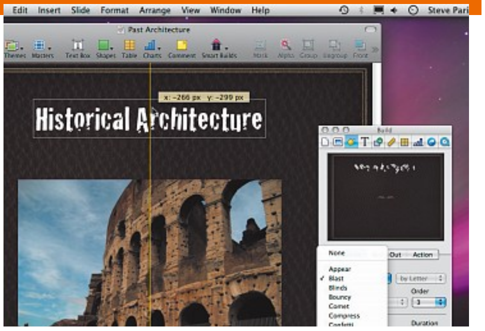
STEP BY STEP Create simple and complex animations using Keynote's Build tool... continued


Keynote File Edit Insert Slide Format Arrange View Window Help
Past Architecture
None
Appear
Blinds
Comet
Confetti
Cube
Dissolve
Drift
Flame
Flip
Iris
Move In
Pivot
Pop
Scale
Shimmer
Sparkle
Action
Order
Duration
1.50 s

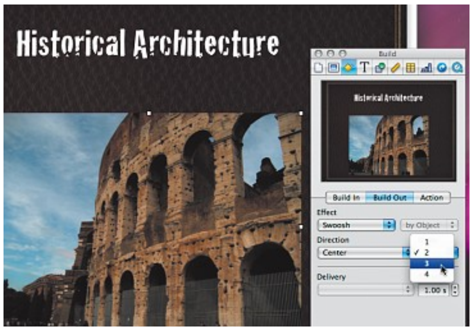
04 Click on the **Effects** pull-down menu and select one. As you do, the preview window above displays what the effect will look like. Most offer additional options via the **Directions** pull-down menu. You can even alter the length of the effect with the **Duration** field. Experiment with them all and select one you like.


Keynote File Edit Insert Slide Format Arrange View Window Help
Past Architecture
Play the slideshow from the selected slide.
Build In
Build Out
Action
Effect
Shimmer

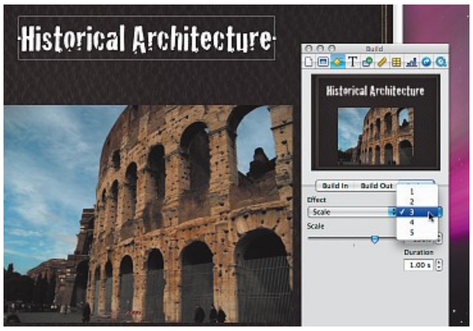
05 Repeat this procedure for **Build Out**. Your image now appears and disappears from the slide using the effects of your choice. To view this in full screen, click on the **Play** button (top-left of the main window). Once in playback mode, click the mouse to see the photo appear; click on it again for it to disappear. Hit [esc] to go back to work.


Historical Architecture
None
Appear
Blast
Blinds
Bounce
Comet
Compress
Out
Action
Order
Duration

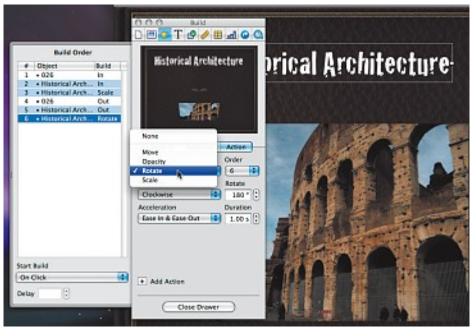
06 Let's be a little more intricate by adding some text to the slide. Click on the **Text Box** button on the toolbar. Reposition the box to a more appropriate location and type something in it. Make sure the text box itself is selected (not the text) and add a **Build In** and **Build Out** effect to it.


Historical Architecture
Build In
Build Out
Action
Effect
Swoosh
Direction
Center
Delivery

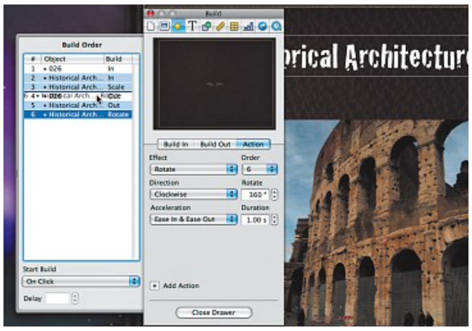
07 As you preview your slide now, the photo appears and disappears before the text is visible on the screen. Let's change that: select the image and go to the **Inspector**'s **Build Out** section. Change the **Order** pull-down menu to **3**. Now the photo comes on, followed by the text and they then both leave, one after the other.


Historical Architecture
Build In
Build Out
Effect
Scale
Duration

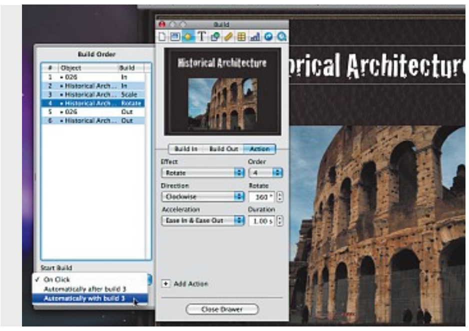
08 Next, we'll animate the text before the photo leaves the slide: select the **Text Box** and click on the **Build Inspector**'s **Action** option. This menu lets you add an effect to an object while it is present on the slide. Choose **Scale** from the **Effect** pull-down menu, increase the size to **150%** and change the **Order** again to **3**.


Build Order
Historical Architecture
None
Move
Opacity
Rotate
Scale
Clockwise
Ease In & Ease Out
Start Build
On Click
Delay
Add Action
Close Drawer

09 You can add more than one action to an object: simply click the **+ Add Action** button at the bottom-left of the **Inspector** window. As you do, a drawer is revealed showing all the effects you have added to your slide. The latest action is added at the end of the list. Choose the **Rotate** effect for this exercise.

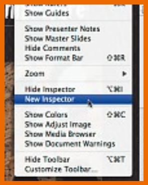

Build Order
Historical Architecture
Build In
Build Out
Action
Rotate
Clockwise
Ease In & Ease Out
Start Build
On Click
Add Action
Close Drawer

10 The drawer makes it easier to see in which order your animation happens. You can also change that order in a much more hands-on way than clicking on a pull-down menu as we did in steps 7 and 8: click on the effect in question in the drawer and drag it up or down to change when it will take place.


Build Order
Historical Architecture
Start Build
On Click
Automatically after build 3
Automatically with build 3
Add Action
Close Drawer

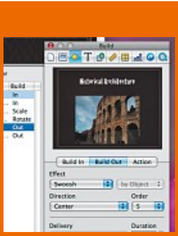
11 Each effect happens one after the other. To make two happen simultaneously, select one effect and click on the **Start Build** pull-down menu located at the bottom of the drawer. Choose **Automatically With Build x** and leave the **Delay** field at **0**. Now as you preview your slide, one click of the mouse triggers both effects at the same time. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


Show Guides
Show Presenter Notes
Show Master Slides
Hide Comments
Show Format Bar
Zoom
Hide Inspector
New Inspector
Show Colors
Show Adjust Image
Show Media Browser
Show Document Warnings
Hide Toolbar
Customize Toolbar...

You can work with more than one Inspector window if you wish. To do this, have one already active and go to View > New Inspector.

EXPERT TIP


Historical Architecture
Build In
Build Out
Action
Effect
Swoosh
Direction
Center
Order
Delivery
Duration

If you choose Automatically After Build x and change the Delay field's value, the effect will happen without the need for you to click on the mouse.

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110 Queens Rd
01273 748 083

Solutions Inc - Brighton & Hove
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Cancom - Cambridge
5 Clifton Ct
01223 247111

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GBM - Manchester
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01322 640100

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Meadowhall Shopping Ctr
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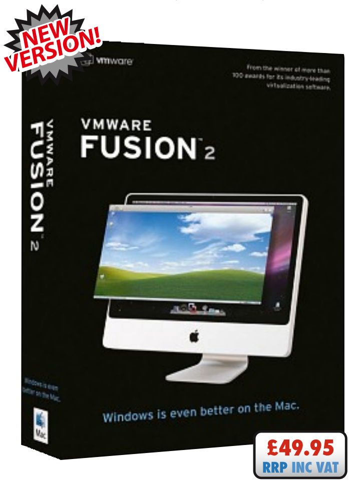

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Turbo charge Mail

A quick survey of the best plug-ins and add-ons for extending Apple Mail

The very first time you run *Mail* on your Mac, you'll have opened one of the most advanced and capable email clients available on any system. But it's possible to add even more power, flexibility, and usefulness to Apple's native email program with a few well-chosen plug-ins and add-ons. There are many to choose from, and in this article we're going to discuss just a selection of the best of these, which we'll break down into three categories: Appearance, Notification and Productivity.

Of course, *Mail* is very handsome to start with, its design well considered; reduced to its essentials so there's no unnecessary clutter or distractions. But since all Macs now come with gorgeous widescreen, you might prefer to change the way *Mail* is laid-out to take better advantage of all that screen space. There are a few options available for doing this, but we recommend *Letterbox* (**http://harnly.net/software/letterbox**).

The main thing *Letterbox* does is enable you to shift the preview pane from under your message list to the right side of the screen, so you have three columns – folders, message list, and content of the selected message. With a click in *Letterbox*'s settings, you can also add alternating line-colours to your message list, which is a smaller thing, but will surely please some *Mail* users' sense of aesthetics. *Letterbox* adds a preview pane item to the **View** menu, which you can use to switch the preview from bottom to right of your screen, or to turn off the preview pane altogether. This is a small tweak, but once you get used to seeing your *Mail* in glorious widescreen, you might find yourself wondering how you managed before.

> "You might prefer to change the way Mail is laid out to take advantage of all that screen space"

Improving Mail's appearance

In a sense, *MiniMail* ($9 (£6), **www.olivetoast.com/MiniMail**) has an opposite agenda to *Letterbox*: it shrinks *Mail* down to its bare essentials, freeing up as much screen space as possible. Just as a click on the green zoom button at the top-left of its window shrinks *iTunes* down to the Mini-Player, so when you have *MiniMail* installed, a click on the zoom button reduces *Mail* to a tiny window displaying minimal controls, the **Subject** line and an excerpt from the currently selected unread message. ►

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

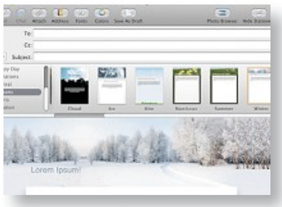
- Apple *Mail* (part of Mac OS X)
- An email account
- Various programs from the disc
- 30 minutes

Mac FORMAT On the disc

You'll find the various programs mentioned here on this month's disc.

ABOVE: Apple *Mail* is great, but it can be improved with some add-on applications.
Image © Emiliano Rodriguez / Alamy

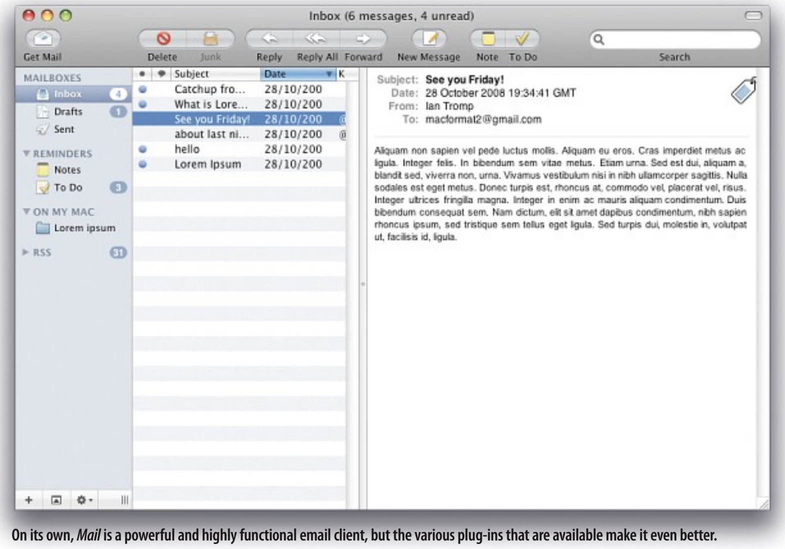
QUICK TIP



Even more stationery

If you like the templates that come with Leopard's *Mail*, you'll love Jumsoft's *Mail Stationery* ($39 (£24), **www.jumsoft.com/stationery**), which adds 100 well-designed new templates to *Mail*. Categorised under various headings, the layouts are accessed through the **Hide/Show Stationery** button in the toolbar of a new message.

MiniMail can be resized by dragging at the bottom-right of its window, so you can show just the very first line of your message, or expand it to show everything. There's also a small icon you'll recognise from *Finder* – the Quick Look icon: click here, and up pops a preview of your message so you can easily read the whole thing, and then, using the control menu at the bottom-left of the preview, access most of the functions you would see in the **Message** menu in the normal *Mail* window. You can check for new mail, compose a message, and even apply rules to messages from the *MiniMail* window, and there's a setting in its **Preferences** that sets the window to float above all others, so that you can keep an eye on your **Inbox** while you work in other applications.



Inbox (6 messages, 4 unread)

Subject	Date
Catchup fro…	28/10/200
What is Lore…	28/10/200
See you Friday!	28/10/200
about last ni…	28/10/200
hello	28/10/200
Lorem Ipsum	28/10/200

Subject: See you Friday!
Date: 28 October 2008 19:34:41 GMT
From: Ian Tromp
To: macformat2@gmail.com

Aliquam non sapien vel pede luctus mollis. Aliquam eu eros. Cras imperdiet metus ac ligula. Integer felis. In bibendum sem vitae metus. Etiam urna. Sed est dui, aliquam a, blandit sed, viverra non, urna. Vivamus vestibulum nisi in nibh ullamcorper sagittis. Nulla sodales est eget metus. Donec turpis est, rhoncus at, commodo vel, placerat vel, risus. Integer ultrices fringilla magna. Integer in enim ac mauris aliquam condimentum. Duis bibendum consequat sem. Nam dictum, elit sit amet dapibus condimentum, nibh sapien rhoncus ipsum, sed tristique sem tellus eget ligula. Sed turpis dui, molestie in, volutpat ut, facilisis id, ligula.

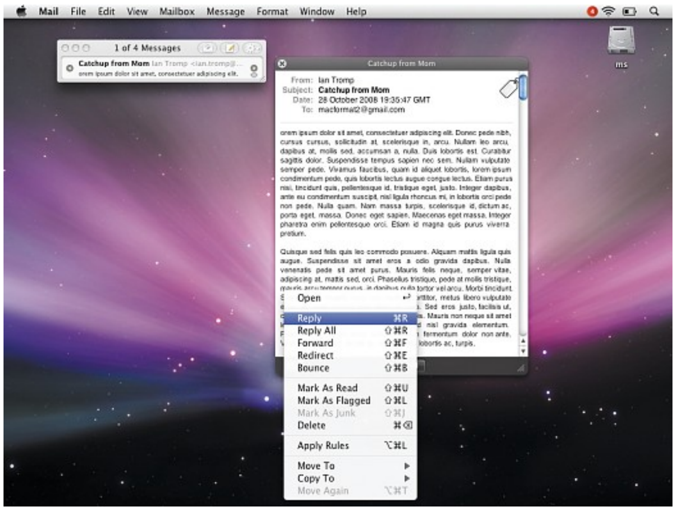
On its own, *Mail* is a powerful and highly functional email client, but the various plug-ins that are available make it even better.

Enhance email notifications

That final feature of *MiniMail* brings us to a couple of plug-ins that enhance *Mail* notifications. The first of these is *DockStar* ($10 (£7), **www.ecamm.com/mac/dockstar**). This is a brilliant little add-on that simply extends the usefulness of *Mail*'s Dock icon. You're used to seeing a little badge with the number of unread messages superimposed on the familiar 'stamp' icon. *DockStar* allows you to control up to five such badges, specifying the mailbox each one refers to. You can even add badges for your RSS feeds, Notes, and To Dos. You can change the shape and colour of the badge, and allocate specific sounds for the arrival of mail in any particular mailbox, just like personalising ringtones on your mobile phone. *DockStar* also displays the number of new messages in your Menu Bar, so even if you choose to hide the Dock, you'll still be able to see when new messages arrive – it also comes with a *Dashboard* widget and a screen saver, so you can keep track of your mail in a number of new ways.

The second add-on delivering improved notifications is *Mail.appetizer* (£FREE, **www.bronsonbeta.com/mailappetizer**), which allows you to see snippets of new messages as they arrive, without needing to have the *Mail* window open at all. As new mail comes in, *Mail.appetizer* displays an attractive and customisable onscreen notification, including the text of the message, so that you can see whether you want to shift your attention and switch over to *Mail*. You can resize the notification window, and so control how much of an incoming message is likely to display (obviously, the larger the notification window, the more of the message you'll see), and you're able to specify how many levels of quotation are shown, so you can include previous messages in a conversation, or only display the newest contribution. You set how long the notification is visible, and by moving your mouse over it, can make it stay in place. You have basic controls available when you mouse-over it, so you can delete the displayed message, mark it as read, or open it in a separate *Mail* window. By default, *Mail.appetizer* also displays the sender's photograph or avatar if you have one set for them in your *Address Book*.

> **"As new mail comes in, Mail.appetizer displays an attractive and customisable onscreen notification"**



Catchup from Mom
From: Ian Tromp
Subject: Catchup from Mom
Date: 28 October 2008 19:35:47 GMT
To: macformat2@gmail.com

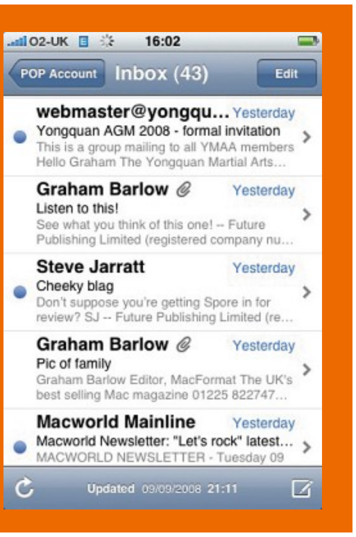
MiniMail shrinks *Mail* down to its bare essentials, freeing up screen space.

For your attention

Mail.appetizer might be either an essential aid in keeping up to the minute on your incoming email, or a real attention-sucker, dragging you away from the task at hand whenever a new message arrives. The best thing to do is give it a try and see

POP VS IMAP – WHICH IS BEST?

Both POP and IMAP are protocols for retrieving email from a server onto your Mac, but there are important differences in how they work. POP (Post Office Protocol) is the simpler of the two: when you log on to the server, any new messages are retrieved onto your machine, deleted from the server, and you're disconnected. By contrast, if your account was set up with IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol) your messages are left on the server and your Mac's Inbox and folders are a mirror image of the server. The difference lies in which end of the exchange is taken to be the definitive one: with POP, the messages on your machine are the ultimate archive of your email, and there's no other store of those messages. With IMAP, the server-side holds the archive of your messages, and when you connect, your Mac is updated so that it's an accurate reflection of what's on the server. You choose whether or not to download copies of messages – you could just retrieve headers, and then whenever you clicked on a message, *Mail* would quickly connect to the server and download it for viewing. Where IMAP has the edge over POP is when using multiple devices to check your email – changes made, wherever they're made from, will instantly be reflected in the other devices, so your folders and Inbox always look the same.



webmaster@yongqu… Yesterday
Yongquan AGM 2008 - formal invitation
This is a group mailing to all YMAA members Hello Graham The Yongquan Martial Arts…

Graham Barlow Yesterday
Listen to this!
See what you think of this one! -- Future Publishing Limited (registered company nu…

Steve Jarratt Yesterday
Cheeky blag
Don't suppose you're getting Spore in for review? SJ -- Future Publishing Limited (re…

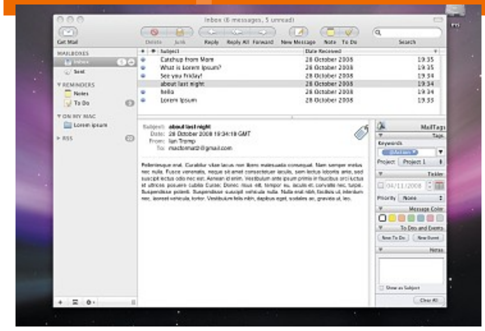
Graham Barlow Yesterday
Pic of family
Graham Barlow Editor, MacFormat The UK's best selling Mac magazine 01225 822747…

Macworld Mainline Yesterday
Macworld Newsletter: "Let's rock" latest…
MACWORLD NEWSLETTER - Tuesday 09

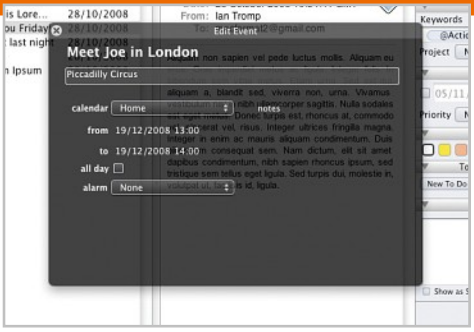
Updated 09/09/2008 21:11

Apple's MobileMe, shown here being used on an iPhone uses IMAP exclusively.

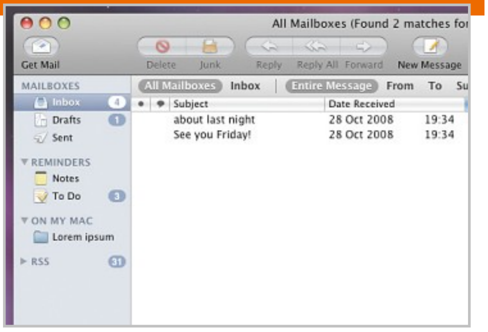
STEP BY STEP Easily add useful features to Apple Mail



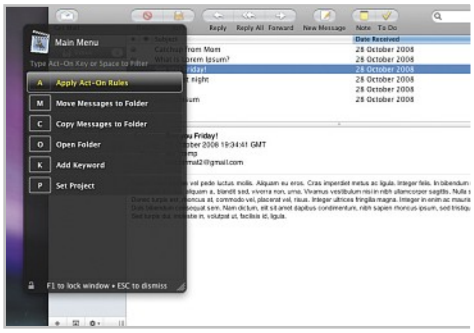
01 The first essential *Mail* plug-in is *MailTags* ($30 (£19), **www.indev.ca**). *MailTags* enables you to add various forms of information to your messages. You can add keywords or tags, which are helpful if you're working with a whole lot of email and need to find an easy way of linking particular messages across different mailboxes or accounts.



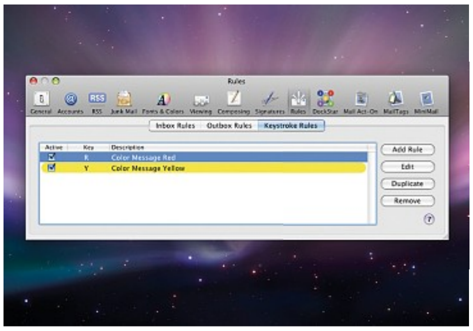
02 You can also allocate a message to a particular project, change its colour, set a 'tickle' date so that you're reminded of it on a particular day (read more about tickling here: **http://tinyurl.com/2hzo5y**), or simply add a note to the message. And (with the *iCal* extra enabled) you can create new events or to dos in *iCal*.



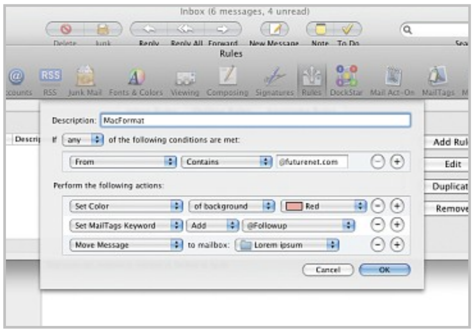
03 All of this information can be saved to your IMAP server (see box: POP vs IMAP), so that it's available from multiple Macs. And it's also indexed by Spotlight, so you can search for keywords or notes in any folder from *Mail*'s search box, or even with a Spotlight search if *Mail* is closed (using the prefix 'keyword:' will focus the search effectively).



04 *Mail Act-On* ($20 (£12) **www.indev.ca**) is our second essential plug-in. To invoke the *MAO* interface, hit the keyboard shortcut ([F1] by default, but you might need to hold down the [fn] key if [F1] is mapped to another function – you can change MAO's trigger in its tab in *Mail*'s **Preferences**). Hit the shortcut key twice to 'lock' the window.



05 Your choices are clear – you can use the keyboard to quickly move or copy messages to another folder, or even to navigate among the folders in *Mail*. Alternatively, you can apply your choice of *Act-On* rules. These rules are defined in a new section of **Keystroke Rules** under the **Rules** tab in *Mail* **Preferences**.



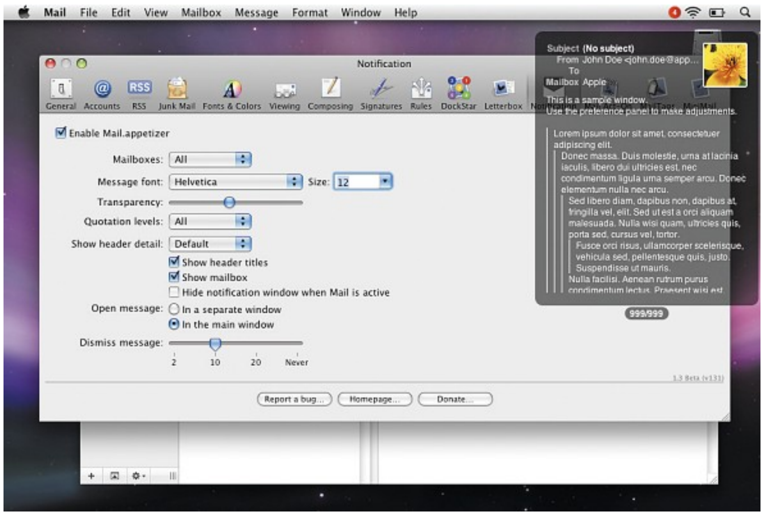
06 It's easy to add a new rule, using the logical steps familiar when making any kind of smart list on your Mac. And *MAO* also adds the ability to apply rules to messages in your Outbox – whether you want to set their colour, add a to do or a Keyword using *MailTags*. Now you can annotate your sent mail as easily as your incoming mail. ●

how it works for you. Some people say 'email' and 'productivity' are words that don't belong together (this article in the *New York Times* suggests email is a big part of 'information overload,' which it describes as a '$650 Billion Drag on the Economy': **http://tinyurl.com/2t242s**). Nonetheless, we're going to recommend a couple of *Mail* plug-ins that could actually make you more productive.

Improve productivity

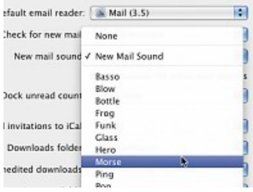
Indev Software produces two of the very best and most useful add-ons for *Mail*: *MailTags* and *Mail Act-On*. The step-by-step walks you through both programs' most useful features, but we'll say a little more here. Indev's website summarises *Mail Act-On* (referred to as *MAO* from here on) as 'Organisation at your

▶



See snippets of new messages as they arrive with the great *Mail.appetizer*.

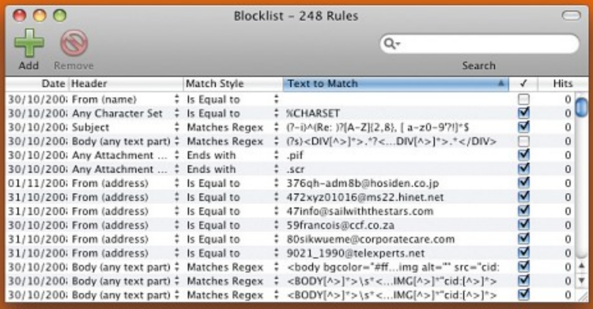
QUICK TIP



Sounds like new mail

You can easily change the alert sound you hear when new email arrives: on the **General** tab in Mail's **Preferences**, click on **New mail sound** to choose from the built-in sounds, or select **Add/Remove...** to personalise with any sound you want.

GET RID OF SPAM


Add
Remove
Search

Blocklist – 248 Rules

Date	Header	Match Style	Text to Match	✓	Hits
30/10/200	From (name)	Is Equal to		☐	0
30/10/200	Any Character Set	Is Equal to	%CHARSET	☑	0
30/10/200	Subject	Matches Regex	(?-i)^(Re:)?[A-Z]{2,8}, [a-z0-9'?!]*$	☑	0
30/10/200	Body (any text part)	Matches Regex	(?s)<DIV[^>]*>.*?<...DIV[^>]*>.*</DIV>	☐	0
30/10/200	Any Attachment ...	Ends with	.pif	☑	0
30/10/200	Any Attachment ...	Ends with	.scr	☑	0
01/11/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	376qh-adm8b@hosiden.co.jp	☑	0
31/10/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	472xyz01016@ms22.hinet.net	☑	0
31/10/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	47info@sailwiththestars.com	☑	0
30/10/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	59francois@ccf.co.za	☑	0
31/10/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	80sikwueme@corporatecare.com	☑	0
31/10/200	From (address)	Is Equal to	9021_1990@telexperts.net	☑	0
30/10/200	Body (any text part)	Matches Regex	<body bgcolor="#ff...img alt="" src="cid:	☑	0
30/10/200	Body (any text part)	Matches Regex	<BODY[^>]*>\s*<...IMG[^>]*"cid:[^>]*>	☑	0
30/10/200	Body (any text part)	Matches Regex	<BODY[^>]*>\s*<...IMG[^>]*"cid:[^>]*>	☑	0

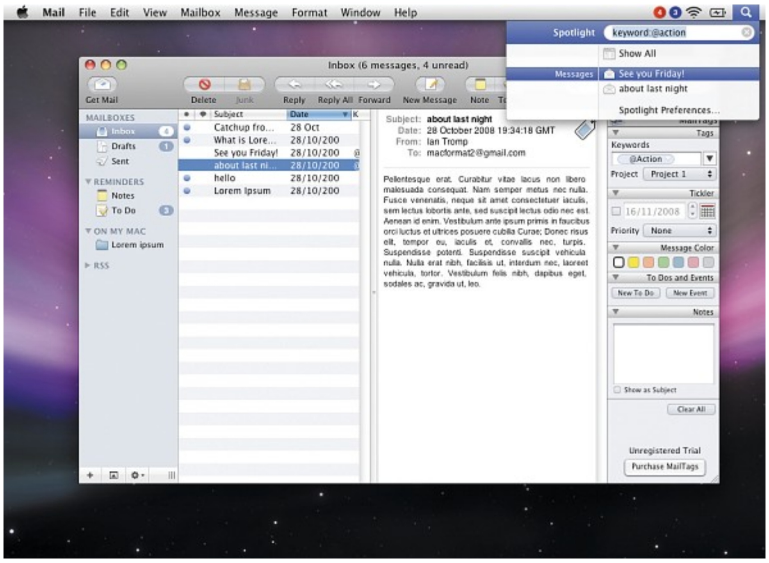
Many email providers now offer very good protection from spam emails. However, you're certainly not alone if you find yourself facing an Inbox full of unwanted junk – there are said to be more than 100 billion spam messages sent every day! Your best bet in dealing with spam is definitely *SpamSieve*. ($30 (£18), http://c-command.com/spamsieve). You begin by training *SpamSieve* to distinguish spam from non-spam messages, and it then continues to learn as new email arrives, so that it can tell the messages you want to read from the junk. It scans the words of arriving messages and calculates how 'spammy' the language is – but it also pays attention to the language of your 'good' messages, and so, because it's able to be 'fuzzy,' it's less likely to produce false positives. Messages identified as spam are moved to a specified folder, so you can always double-check. *Mail* has junk filtering built-in, but *SpamSieve* does a more thorough and precise job of separating the good from the bad and the ugly. The image above is a *Spamsieve* blocklist.

TOOL SCHOOL

Connection Doctor

If you're having problems with your email account, run the *Connection Doctor*: click on **Window** and then **Connection Doctor** and *Mail* will test connections to all your accounts' servers.

fingertips,' which is a great summary of what it offers – quick and easy, keyboard-controlled management and organisation of all your mail. There's some debate over whether the mouse or the keyboard is the faster input method, but those who prefer using keyboard shortcuts will find *MAO* a real boon in working with messages and folders in *Mail*. By setting a few simple 'keystroke rules', you can do everything from changing a message's colour to playing a particular sound or bouncing *Mail*'s Dock icon – so when a new message arrives in from Aunt Em, you're sure not to miss it with that sound, the blaze of new colour in your Inbox, and the *Mail* icon bouncing up and down! More usefully, you can use rules to file, categorise, and generally organise your email automatically, with very few keystrokes.


Mail File Edit View Mailbox Message Format Window Help
Spotlight
keyword:@action
Show All
Messages
See you Friday!
about last night
Spotlight Preferences...
Inbox (6 messages, 4 unread)
Get Mail
Delete
Junk
Reply
Reply All
Forward
New Message
Note
MAILBOXES
Inbox
Drafts
Sent
REMINDERS
Notes
To Do
ON MY MAC
Lorem ipsum
RSS
MailTags
Tags
Keywords
@Action
Project
Project 1
Tickler
16/11/2008
Priority
None
Message Color
To Dos and Events
New To Do
New Event
Notes
Show as Subject
Clear All
Unregistered Trial
Purchase MailTags

Subject	Date
Catchup fro...	28 Oct
What is Lore...	28/10/200
See you Friday!	28/10/200
about last ni...	28/10/200
hello	28/10/200
Lorem Ipsum	28/10/200

Subject: about last night
Date: 28 October 2008 19:34:18 GMT
From: Ian Tromp
To: macformat2@gmail.com

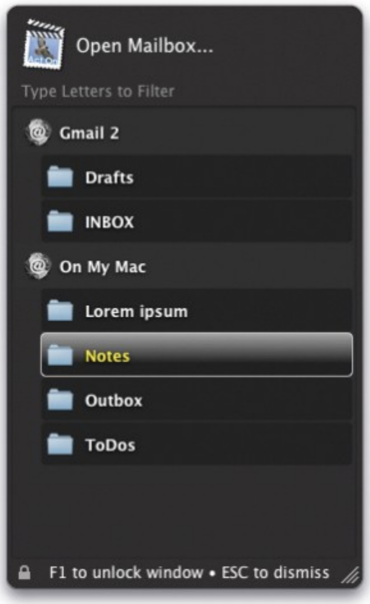
Pellentesque erat. Curabitur vitae lacus non libero malesuada consequat. Nam semper metus nec nulla. Fusce venenatis, neque sit amet consectetuer iaculis, sem lectus lobortis ante, sed suscipit lectus odio nec est. Aenean id enim. Vestibulum ante ipsum primis in faucibus orci luctus et ultrices posuere cubilia Curae; Donec risus elit, tempor eu, iaculis et, convallis nec, turpis. Suspendisse potenti. Suspendisse suscipit vehicula nulla. Nulla erat nibh, facilisis ut, interdum nec, laoreet vehicula, tortor. Vestibulum felis nibh, dapibus eget, sodales ac, gravida ut, leo.

Messages tagged with *MailTags* are indexed by Spotlight, making it easy to search in *Mail* or from the Spotlight search box.

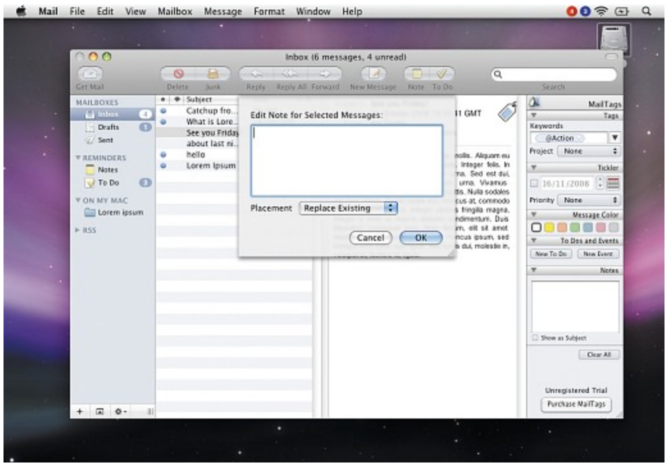
Tagged to go

And where this is at its best is when you ally it with *MailTags*. Tags are a form of metadata, data about data: they're words or terms appended to any piece of information or a file or photo, to assist in searching or indexing that information. If you've worked with Flickr or Delicious.com, you'll have used tags before. In fact, it's possible to tag any file on your Mac so that you can quickly and easily find documents or images with a particular tag, even across completely different kinds of information. (*MailTags* alternates between calling these tags and 'keywords,' but they mean the same thing.) You can add tags to each message and then find them again with a quick search, even if you've stored them in different folders. Or you could take the further step and flatten your email archive into a single folder in which messages are distinguished solely by their tags. And when you have both *MailTags* and *MAO* installed, you can do your tagging with keystroke rules, so the process is even quicker. But what makes *MailTags* especially useful is its ability to interact with *iCal* – of course, under Leopard, *Mail* does a good job of that already, but *MailTags* adds some extra functionality that does the job just a little bit better.

> "All of these plug-ins add to the experience of working with Mail, but they start from a very solid base"


Open Mailbox...
Type Letters to Filter
Gmail 2
Drafts
INBOX
On My Mac
Lorem ipsum
Notes
Outbox
ToDos
F1 to unlock window • ESC to dismiss

Mouse-trap: with *Mail Act-On*, you can navigate through your *Mail* folders without taking your hands from the keyboard.


Mail File Edit View Mailbox Message Format Window Help
Inbox (6 messages, 4 unread)
Edit Note for Selected Messages:
Placement
Replace Existing
Cancel
OK
MailTags

Using *MailTags*, you can add text notes to your messages.

Making the best better

And that's the thing to say in conclusion: all these plug-ins add to the experience of working with *Mail*, but they start from a very solid base. *Mail* in itself – just as it is, the day you set it up for the very first time – is an excellent email client, and if you're coming to a Mac from another platform, chances are you'll be delighted by the simplicity and ease of it. These plug-ins and add-ons do just that – add on: they start from very, very good, and they bring you out at excellent.

Ian Tromp

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- Easily back up your files

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MAC
- OS X tips and tricks
- Where to go for help

Get the best from TextEdit

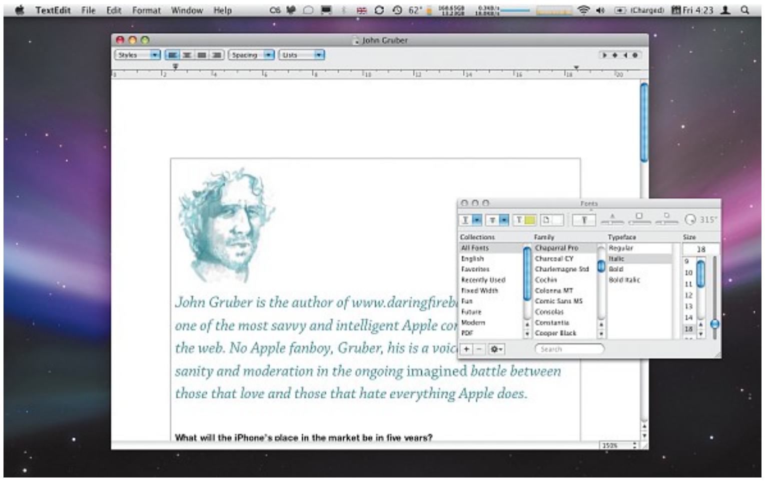
Get the most out of this handy word processor – it's on your Mac already!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.5 (In reality any version will do, but only the version of *TextEdit* included with Leopard will do everything here.)

TextEdit is a marvel. You may have ignored this little gem of an app on your Mac's hard disk in favour of a bigger, sexier word processing application such as Apple *Pages* or Microsoft *Word* – both of which and others are put through their paces in this issue's group test on page 104 – but in fact *TextEdit* is packed with features. Pretty much the only thing it doesn't do for even some medium-weight word processing tasks is count the number of words you write, and while this is annoying, there are at least plenty of sites on the web that you can paste your text into to get a quick word count.

One little aside before we begin proper: you might not be aware of it, but *TextEdit* can open and save to a very useful range of formats. As well as plain .txt, rich .rtf and rtfd files, *TextEdit* can open HTML (.html), Web Archive (.webarchive), OpenDocument (.odt) – that's the format used by *OpenOffice*, see page 90 – Microsoft *Word 2007* (.docx), Microsoft *Word 97* (.doc) and Microsoft *Word 2003* XML (.xml). Those last few *Word* versions are particularly useful; PC-using colleagues may frequently send you *Word* documents, but you may not have realised that you don't have to spend a penny on *Word* or any other application to open these files. Best of all is the ability to open the new XML-based .docx format.



John Gruber is the author of www.daringfireb

one of the most savvy and intelligent Apple co

the web. No Apple fanboy, Gruber, his is a voic

sanity and moderation in the ongoing imagined battle between those that love and those that hate everything Apple does.

What will the iPhone's place in the market be in five years?

TextEdit offers you some features that are either difficult to access from, or simply not available in, other applications.

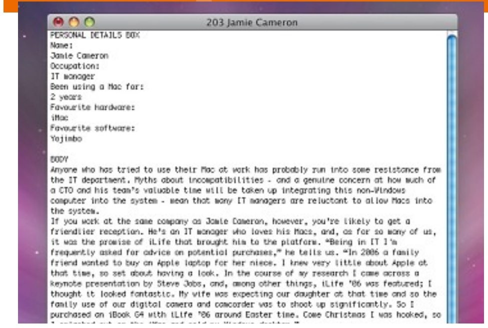
> "Usefully, the text engine at the heart of TextEdit is used by many Apple and third-party applications"

As a word processor in its own right, though – not simply as a utility for opening documents created in other applications – *TextEdit* has a lot to offer. It boasts features that just a few years ago we were paying big money for – autosave, styles, kerning controls, soft drop shadows on text, granular control over line spacing and more.

Most usefully, however, is that the text engine at the heart of *TextEdit* is used by many Apple and third-party applications, so once you familiarise yourself with how things are done in *TextEdit*, you can use those skills in many other apps too.

Here, we'll show you not only how to use *TextEdit* but also share some tips on other handy tricks that it can do, and explain some text-handling basics.
Christopher Phin

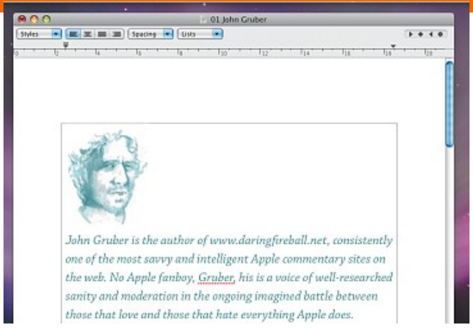
STEP BY STEP A guide to TextEdit's best features



PERSONAL DETAILS BOX
Name:
Jamie Cameron
Occupation:
IT manager
Been using a Mac for:
2 years
Favourite hardware:
iMac
Favourite software:
Yojimbo

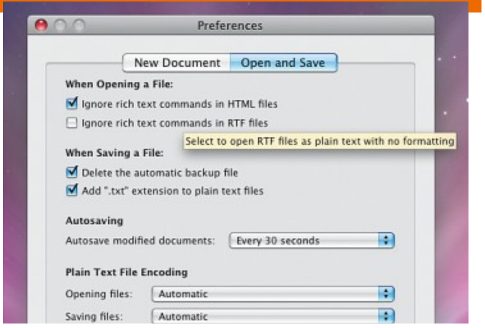
BODY
Anyone who has tried to use their Mac at work has probably run into some resistance from the IT department. Myths about incompatibilities - and a genuine concern at how much of a CTO and his team's valuable time will be taken up integrating this non-Windows computer into the system - mean that many IT managers are reluctant to allow Macs into the system.
If you work at the same company as Jamie Cameron, however, you're likely to get a friendlier reception. He's an IT manager who loves his Macs, and, as for so many of us, it was the promise of iLife that brought him to the platform. "Being in IT I'm frequently asked for advice on potential purchases," he tells us. "In 2006 a family friend wanted to buy an Apple laptop for her niece. I knew very little about Apple at that time, so set about having a look. In the course of my research I came across a keynote presentation by Steve Jobs, and, among other things, iLife '06 was featured; I thought it looked fantastic. My wife was expecting our daughter at that time and so the family use of our digital camera and camcorder was to shoot up significantly. So I purchased an iBook G4 with iLife '06 around Easter time. Come Christmas I was hooked, so

01 *TextEdit* defaults to 10pt Monaco for plain text documents. You can change this either by using the **Fonts** palette or, for all future documents, using *TextEdit*'s preferences. While many apps support **Paste and Match Style**, keep *TextEdit* in your Dock so you can paste into a plain text document, then recopy, to strip out formatting.



John Gruber is the author of www.daringfireball.net, consistently one of the most savvy and intelligent Apple commentary sites on the web. No Apple fanboy, Gruber, his is a voice of well-researched sanity and moderation in the ongoing imagined battle between those that love and those that hate everything Apple does.

02 Switch to rich text, and you have much more control. While you can only have one font, style and size in a plain text document, rich text docs let you mix as many different styles as you like; remember too that you can use the Mac's **Print** dialog to export these as PDFs, and that *TextEdit* can open and render HTML docs.



When Opening a File:
☑ Ignore rich text commands in HTML files
☐ Ignore rich text commands in RTF files
Select to open RTF files as plain text with no formatting

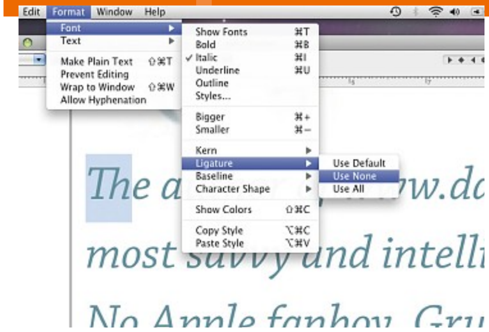
When Saving a File:
☑ Delete the automatic backup file
☑ Add ".txt" extension to plain text files

Autosaving
Autosave modified documents: Every 30 seconds

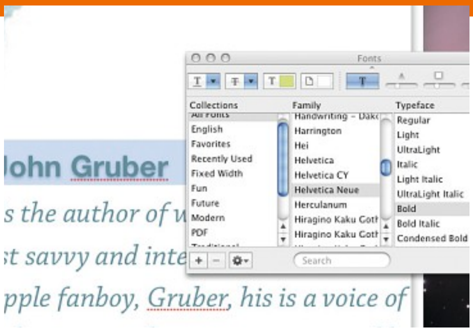
Plain Text File Encoding
Opening files: Automatic
Saving files: Automatic

03 Sometimes, though, you don't want *TextEdit* to render the formatting in rich text or HTML documents. It may be that you've saved a web page to your hard disk because you want to peek at the HTML and see how something was done. Check the relevant options under **When Opening a File** in the **Open and Save** preferences tab.

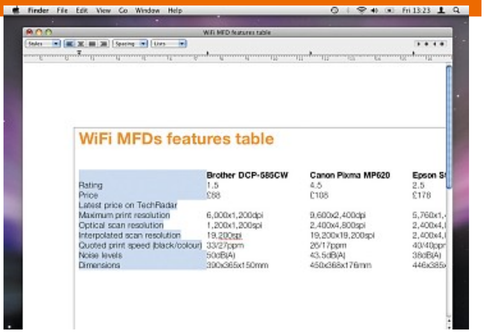
STEP BY STEP A guide to TextEdit's best features


Edit
Format
Window
Help
Font
Text
Make Plain Text ⇧⌘T
Prevent Editing
Wrap to Window ⇧⌘W
Allow Hyphenation
Show Fonts ⌘T
Bold ⌘B
✓ Italic ⌘I
Underline ⌘U
Outline
Styles…
Bigger ⌘+
Smaller ⌘−
Kern
Ligature
Baseline
Character Shape
Show Colors ⇧⌘C
Copy Style ⌥⌘C
Paste Style ⌥⌘V
Use Default
Use None
Use All

04 *TextEdit*'s text handling engine is capable of some fairly advanced typographic control. In addition to fine-grained line and paragraph-spacing, and kerning and baseline controls, you can opt to apply ligatures in supported fonts. Ligatures are when special glyphs have been built to join characters – such as 'Th' – that could otherwise clash.


Fonts
Collections
All Fonts
English
Favorites
Recently Used
Fixed Width
Fun
Future
Modern
PDF
Family
Handwriting – Dakota
Harrington
Hei
Helvetica
Helvetica CY
Helvetica Neue
Herculanum
Hiragino Kaku Gothic
Hiragino Kaku Gothic
Typeface
Regular
Light
UltraLight
Italic
Light Italic
UltraLight Italic
Bold
Bold Italic
Condensed Bold
Search
John Gruber

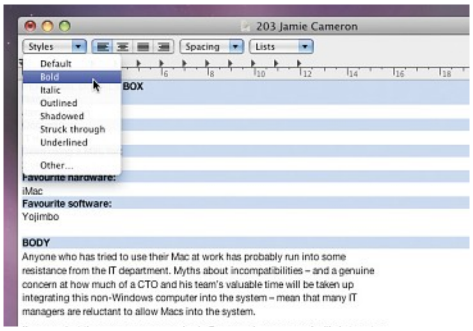
05 You can apply some pretty text styling effects too. As well as basic stuff such as bold, italics and underline – you have much more control over underlining than you might expect – *TextEdit* can also create soft drop shadows. Click the **T** icon near the middle of the **Fonts** palette, then use the controls to the right to adjust the shadow.


Finder
File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
Fri 13:23
WiFi MFD features table
Styles
Spacing
Lists

WiFi MFDs features table

	Brother DCP-585CW	Canon Pixma MP620	Epson S
Rating	1.5	4.5	2.5
Price	£88	£108	£178
Latest price on TechRadar			
Maximum print resolution	6,000x1,200dpi	9,600x2,400dpi	5,760x1,
Optical scan resolution	1,200x1,200spi	2,400x4,800spi	2,400x4,
Interpolated scan resolution	19,200spi	19,200x19,200spi	2,400x4,
Quoted print speed (black/colour)	33/27ppm	26/17ppm	40/40ppm
Noise levels	50dB(A)	43.5dB(A)	38dB(A)
Dimensions	390x365x150mm	450x368x176mm	446x385

06 In rich text documents, the ruler that's shown at the top of the document enables you to set paragraph indents or tab stops. Drag tabs in from the little well at the top right; left-align, right-align, centre-align and decimal-align are all supported. Remember that you can select columns of text by holding ⌘ as you drag.

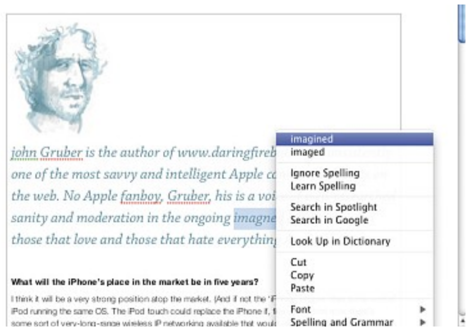

203 Jamie Cameron
Styles
Spacing
Lists
Default
Bold
Italic
Outlined
Shadowed
Struck through
Underlined
Other…

BOX

Favourite hardware:
iMac
Favourite software:
Yojimbo

BODY
Anyone who has tried to use their Mac at work has probably run into some resistance from the IT department. Myths about incompatibilities – and a genuine concern at how much of a CTO and his team's valuable time will be taken up integrating this non-Windows computer into the system – mean that many IT managers are reluctant to allow Macs into the system.

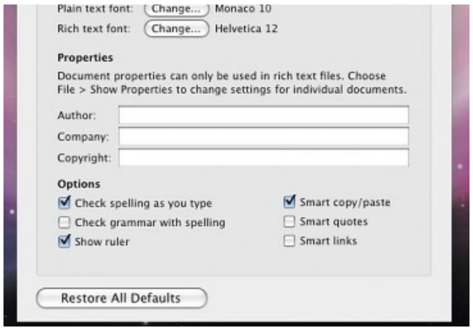
07 You can save yourself time by setting up styles for documents you style up regularly. There's a short list included, but you can create your own by styling some text how you like, choosing **Other** from the **Styles** drop-down menu and adding it to your favourites. It's now accessible system-wide, though some apps won't hook into it.


imagined
imaged
Ignore Spelling
Learn Spelling
Search in Spotlight
Search in Google
Look Up in Dictionary
Cut
Copy
Paste
Font
Spelling and Grammar

John Gruber is the author of www.daringfireb
one of the most savvy and intelligent Apple co
the web. No Apple fanboy, Gruber, his is a voi
sanity and moderation in the ongoing imagne
those that love and those that hate everythin

What will the iPhone's place in the market be in five years?

08 *TextEdit* lets you access the OS-level spell- and grammar-check system. Enable this from the **Edit** menu, and either do manual sweeps for errors in your document, or enable **Check as you type**. Dotted red underlines are for spelling errors, while green is for grammar; you can right-click on the mistake and choose the correction from the list.


Plain text font: Change… Monaco 10
Rich text font: Change… Helvetica 12

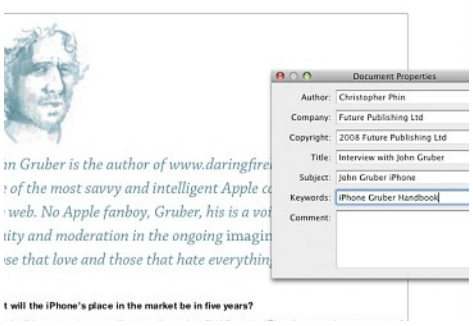
Properties
Document properties can only be used in rich text files. Choose File > Show Properties to change settings for individual documents.

Author:
Company:
Copyright:

Options
☑ Check spelling as you type
☐ Check grammar with spelling
☑ Show ruler
☑ Smart copy/paste
☐ Smart quotes
☐ Smart links

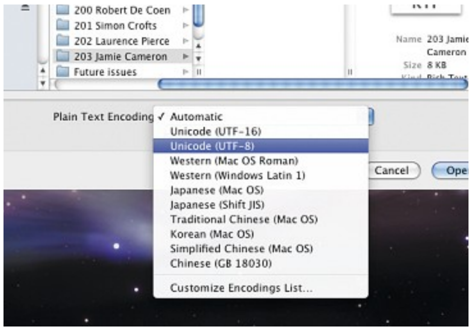
Restore All Defaults

09 If you want to use *TextEdit* to write any sort of code, you'll probably want to turn off smart quotes, which change dumb quotes into 'sixty-six' and 'ninety-nine' quotes, smart links – turning web addresses and email addresses into clickable links – and the smart copy/paste that ensures correct spacing in pasted text.


Document Properties

Author: Christopher Phin
Company: Future Publishing Ltd
Copyright: 2008 Future Publishing Ltd
Title: Interview with John Gruber
Subject: John Gruber iPhone
Keywords: iPhone Gruber Handbook
Comment:

10 Go to File > Show Properties. Here you can set metadata associated with that document, which you can then use to search for and catalogue your documents. Remember too that *TextEdit* can not only open *Word* documents, but also save files you create in this format; these properties are preserved when you do so.


200 Robert De Coen
201 Simon Crofts
202 Laurence Pierce
203 Jamie Cameron
Future issues
Name 203 Jamie Cameron
Size 8 KB
Plain Text Encoding
✓ Automatic
Unicode (UTF-16)
Unicode (UTF-8)
Western (Mac OS Roman)
Western (Windows Latin 1)
Japanese (Mac OS)
Japanese (Shift JIS)
Traditional Chinese (Mac OS)
Korean (Mac OS)
Simplified Chinese (Mac OS)
Chinese (GB 18030)
Customize Encodings List…
Cancel
Open

11 You might occasionally open a document to find some characters show up as garbage. This is probably because *TextEdit* hasn't been able to automatically detect what encoding was used. Open the file from within *TextEdit*, and try the different encoding options from the drop-down menu. One is almost certain to work.

TOOL SCHOOL

If you want to enter exotic characters, use OS X's built-in Characters palette. Enable it from the Input tab of the International System Preference pane.

EXPERT TIP

As well as setting properties on a per-document basis, you can set defaults for author, company and copyright in *TextEdit*'s preferences; they'll apply to all new documents.

Save energy and protect files

Put your Mac into a low-power mode when you're not using it, and beat power cuts!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac running Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- A UPS if you want to protect files from power cuts

You might have ignored the **Energy Saver** pane in *System Preferences*, but that would be a shame; this unassuming little utility can not only save you money by keeping your electricity bill down, but can also help protect your data against power cuts.

Its main functions are to adjust when your Mac goes to sleep, when the display is put into a low-power mode, when to spin down your hard disks, and to set these options differently depending on whether you're connected to mains power or, with a laptop, are running on battery power. The operating system suggests some presets, but you can customise them to suit. By tinkering with these sliders – and by using features such as the automatic timed startup and shutdown – you can ensure that your Mac's ready for you whenever you want, but isn't soaking up power when you aren't using it.

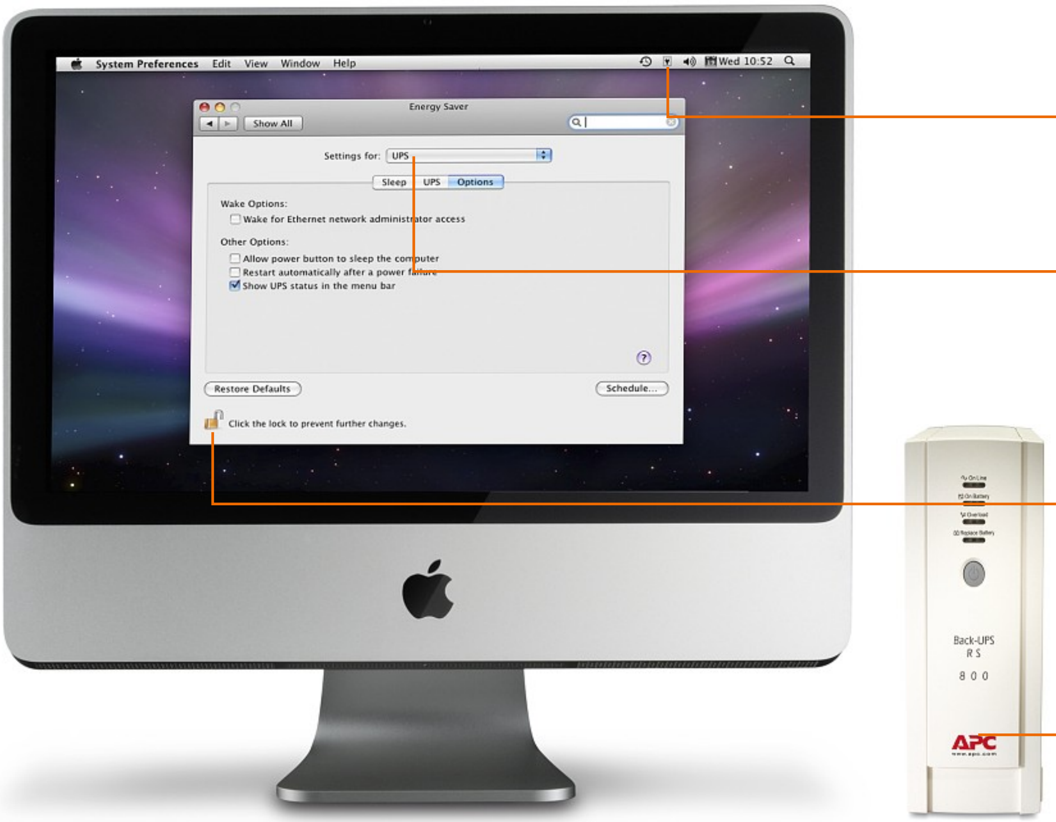
> "Energy Saver not only keeps your electricity bill down, but can also help protect your data against power cuts"

The other thing you can do is add a UPS to your Mac. An Uninterruptible Power Supply is basically a big battery that sits between your power outlet and your Mac, screen and other peripherals, and it does two things. First, it conditions the power being fed to your computer to filter out any potentially-harmful peaks and troughs in the electrical supply. More importantly, though, it can provide enough power to your system in the event of a power cut to let you save your work and shut down gracefully. This process can be automated, too; there's native support in the **Energy Saver** from OS X 10.4 onwards. In our experience, UPSs from the big names – APC, Belkin and MGE – hook into this native support.

In this tutorial, we'll be using an APC Back-UPS RS 800, available online for around £100; when we tested a group of UPSs with a 500MHz Power Mac G4, a 2.8GHz Celeron D Dell PC and a small, 15-inch LCD monitor connected at the same time, this heavy unit from APC gave us an impressive 12 minutes of battery power before throwing up a low-power notice; that's plenty of time to save any opened work and shut down your Mac properly, helping guard against directory corruption on your hard disk.

Christopher Phin

TOP FEATURES | The best bits of Energy Saver



Settings for: UPS

Wake Options:
☐ Wake for Ethernet network administrator access

Other Options:
☐ Allow power button to sleep the computer
☐ Restart automatically after a power failure
☑ Show UPS status in the menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

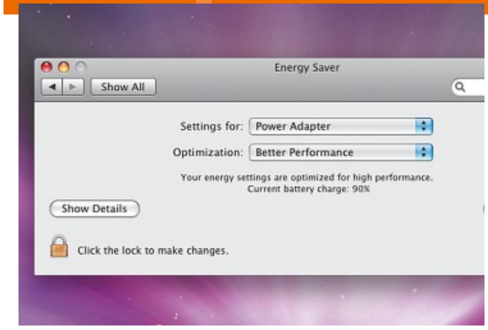
Charge gauge
You can choose to show the status of a connected UPS in your menu bar, giving you an easy overview of how much charge remains.

Power source
Choose which power source – mains, battery or UPS – you want to adjust from this menu. You can define different behaviours for each source.

Save energy
Lock this *System Preferences* pane behind an admin password if you're deploying Macs in a business to help save power.

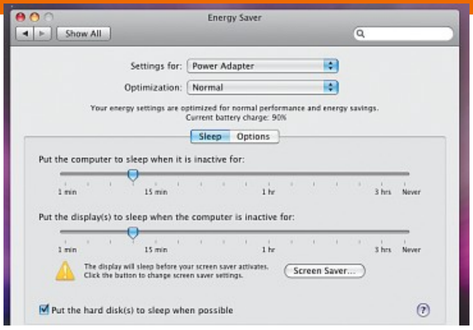
Power cut protection
Stash a UPS under your desk, and even if there's a power cut you can save your work and shut down your Mac gracefully.

STEP BY STEP Use Energy Saver to save power and protect your data


Energy Saver
Show All
Show Details

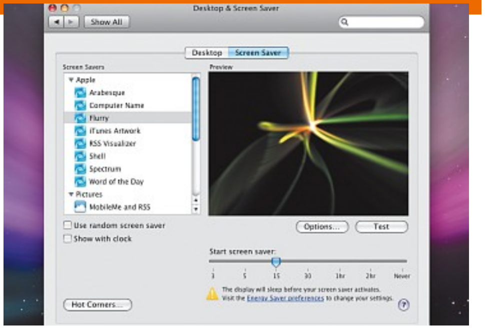
Settings for: Power Adapter
Optimization: Better Performance
Your energy settings are optimized for high performance.
Current battery charge: 90%
Click the lock to make changes.

01 Launch *System Preferences*, then click on the **Energy Saver** icon. We're using a laptop for the first section here, so we get a drop-down menu at the top of the screen window. By default, you're only shown a summary; click the **Show Details** button to expand the window to show you exactly what the **Optimization** preset is doing.


Energy Saver
Show All
Sleep
Options
1 min
15 min
1 hr
3 hrs
Never
Screen Saver...

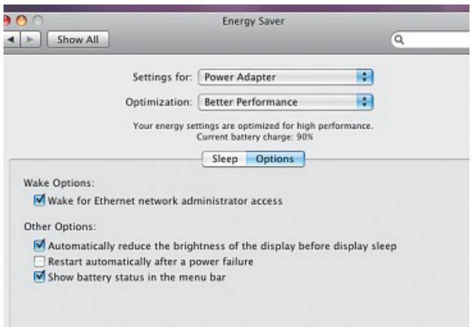
Settings for: Power Adapter
Optimization: Normal
Your energy settings are optimized for normal performance and energy savings.
Current battery charge: 90%
Put the computer to sleep when it is inactive for:
Put the display(s) to sleep when the computer is inactive for:
The display will sleep before your screen saver activates.
Click the button to change screen saver settings.
☑ Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible

02 Now you can begin to tinker with how long you want your Mac to remain on and active before it sleeps the system. You can choose between the different **Optimization** presets from the drop-down menu at the top of the screen, or simply drag the sliders to customise; here, we're setting behaviour for when our laptop is on mains power.


Desktop & Screen Saver
Show All
Desktop
Screen Saver
Screen Savers
Apple
Arabesque
Computer Name
Flurry
iTunes Artwork
RSS Visualizer
Shell
Spectrum
Word of the Day
Pictures
MobileMe and RSS
Preview
Options...
Test
3
5
15
30
1hr
2hr
Never
Hot Corners...

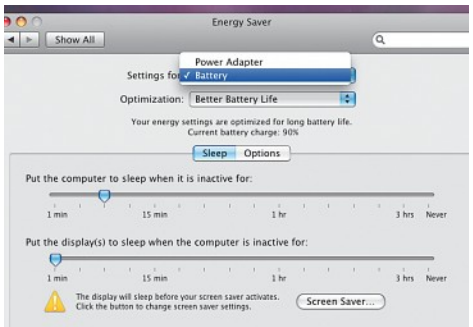
☐ Use random screen saver
☐ Show with clock
Start screen saver:
The display will sleep before your screen saver activates.
Visit the Energy Saver preferences to change your settings.

03 You can see an alert in the previous step letting you know that the screen will go to sleep before your screensaver begins. This is usually fine if you're trying to save money and power, but if you like watching your screensaver, click the **Screen Saver** button to switch to the **Desktop & Screen Saver** pane so you can adjust its timings.


Energy Saver
Show All
Sleep
Options

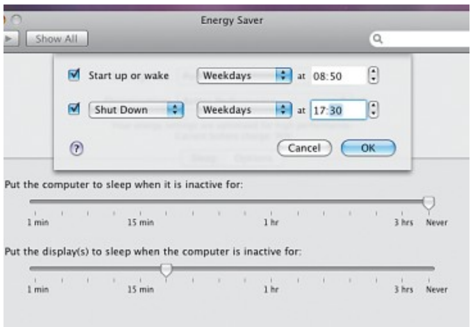
Settings for: Power Adapter
Optimization: Better Performance
Your energy settings are optimized for high performance.
Current battery charge: 90%
Wake Options:
☑ Wake for Ethernet network administrator access
Other Options:
☑ Automatically reduce the brightness of the display before display sleep
☐ Restart automatically after a power failure
☑ Show battery status in the menu bar

04 Go back to **Energy Saver** and click the **Options** tab. Here you can set options such as whether to show your laptop's battery status in the menu bar, restart automatically after a power failure – handy if your Mac is a server, say – and dim the display before it goes to sleep proper. You see different options depending on your Mac.


Energy Saver
Show All
Power Adapter
Sleep
Options
1 min
15 min
1 hr
3 hrs
Never
Screen Saver...

Settings for: ✓ Battery
Optimization: Better Battery Life
Your energy settings are optimized for long battery life.
Current battery charge: 90%
Put the computer to sleep when it is inactive for:
Put the display(s) to sleep when the computer is inactive for:
The display will sleep before your screen saver activates.
Click the button to change screen saver settings.

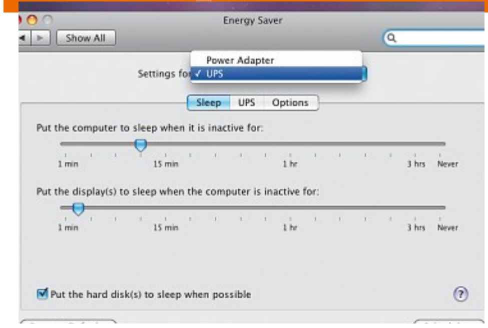
05 Now use the topmost drop-down menu to switch to **Battery**. This is where you can define behaviours for when the laptop is running on its battery, and you usually want to be much more conservative with power; sleep the display after only a few minutes' inactivity.


Energy Saver
Show All
Cancel
OK
1 min
15 min
1 hr
3 hrs
Never

☑ Start up or wake Weekdays at 08:50
☑ Shut Down Weekdays at 17:30
Put the computer to sleep when it is inactive for:
Put the display(s) to sleep when the computer is inactive for:

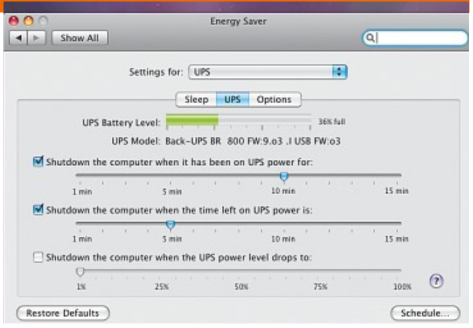
06 Click the **Schedule** button at the bottom-right; this drops down a sheet that lets you tell your Mac when you'd like it to start up and shut down. Usefully, your Mac won't force a shutdown, so if there are unsaved documents open, unsaved changes won't be lost; this may cause your Mac's scheduled shutdown to fail, however.

STEP BY STEP Configuring a UPS device


Energy Saver
Show All
Power Adapter
Sleep
UPS
Options
1 min
15 min
1 hr
3 hrs
Never

Settings for: ✓ UPS
Put the computer to sleep when it is inactive for:
Put the display(s) to sleep when the computer is inactive for:
☑ Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible

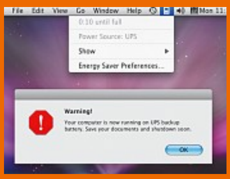
01 Connect up the power cables for your UPS, then connect it to the USB port on your Mac; this USB connection passes the UPS's status to your Mac so it can begin an automatic shutdown following a power cut. Launch **Energy Saver** and you'll notice that, even on a desktop Mac, you'll now have a new option under the **Settings for** menu.


Energy Saver
Show All
Sleep
UPS
Options
1 min
5 min
10 min
15 min
1%
25%
50%
75%
100%
Restore Defaults
Schedule...

Settings for: UPS
UPS Battery Level: 36% full
UPS Model: Back-UPS BR 800 FW:9.o3 .I USB FW:o3
☑ Shutdown the computer when it has been on UPS power for:
☑ Shutdown the computer when the time left on UPS power is:
☐ Shutdown the computer when the UPS power level drops to:

02 Now you can tell your Mac what you want it to do if the power fails. You can choose to have it shut down when it has been on UPS power for a certain time, when the time left on UPS power reaches a particular level, or when the battery reserve drops to a certain percentage; the shutdown will happen when the lowest criteria is met. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
Mon 11:
0:10 until full
Power Source: UPS
Show
Energy Saver Preferences...
OK

Warning!
Your computer is now running on UPS backup battery. Save your documents and shutdown soon.

If the power cuts out, your Mac will warn you with an alert message, and if you've chosen to show the UPS status in the menu bar, you can see how much charge remains.

EXPERT TIP

Some UPSs, like the APC Back-UPS RS 800 we've used throughout this tutorial, only have C14 IEC sockets. They're compact and robust, but you might have to get convertors for some kit.

Create a simple application

Revolution Media lets you build a simple, attractive application to manage your to-do list

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- *Revolution Media 3.0* (on the disc)
- About one hour

Mac FORMAT On the disc

The full version of *Revolution Media 3.0* is on the disc.

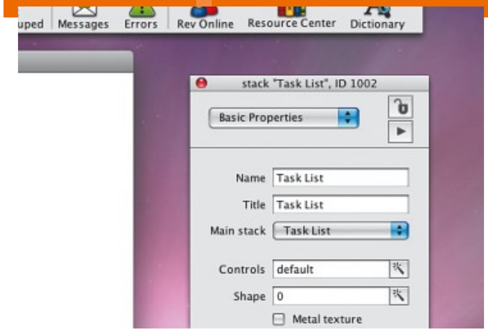
Revolution Media is the perfect development environment for both novice and more experienced developers who want to be able to create useful and usable applications in the minimum amount of time, without sacrificing flexibility and power. *Revolution Media* allows you to create user interfaces in a matter of minutes using drag-and-drop elements, and coding your application won't take much longer once you start using *Revolution*'s easy, English-like language. If you've never coded before, don't be alarmed. Just follow the easy steps below and you'll have built your very first application before you know it. To play back your application, use the included *Media Player*. Later, if you want to turn your to-do list into a true standalone app, upgrade to *Revolution Studio* to do this.

These days everyone is busy. Keeping on top of your task list can be a full-time job, never mind actually completing everything on it. This tutorial will show you how to create a simple to-do list using *Revolution Media*. The simplicity of the program means that creating it won't eat up much of your valuable time.

This task list will be a desktop app, so you don't need to have a browser open all the time to use it. It will display a list of tasks, allow you to add tasks, delete tasks and change the status of a task between complete and incomplete.

Eleanor Buchanan

STEP BY STEP Using Revolution Media to create an application

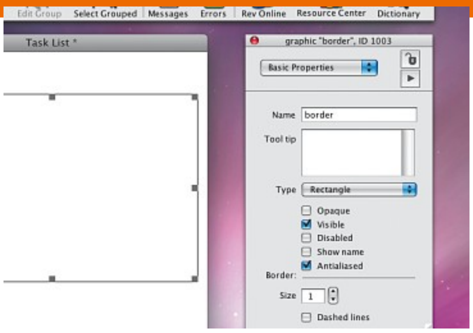


stack "Task List", ID 1002

Basic Properties

Name: Task List
Title: Task List
Main stack: Task List
Controls: default
Shape: 0
☐ Metal texture

01 The first thing to do is to start up *Revolution Media* and create a new Mainstack from the **File** menu. This will create a window called **Untitled 1**. You should give your stack a name and save it before starting development. Open the **stack inspector** from the **Object** menu and change the name and title to **Task List**. Then save your stack.

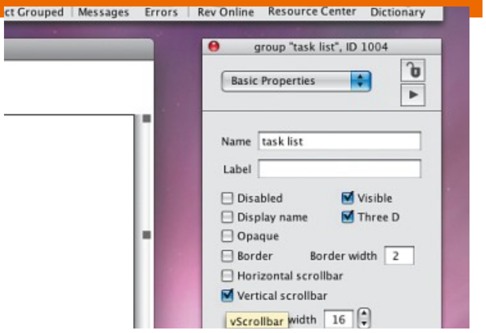


graphic "border", ID 1003

Basic Properties

Name: border
Tool tip:
Type: Rectangle
☐ Opaque
☑ Visible
☐ Disabled
☐ Show name
☑ Antialiased
Border:
Size: 1
☐ Dashed lines

02 Next you want to set up your basic screen layout. You can tweak it later. First define an area to display the task list. You do this by selecting the **Rectangle** tool then drawing a rectangle on the screen where you want your list to be. Now select the rectangle, open the **Property Inspector** using the **Object** menu and call it **border**.

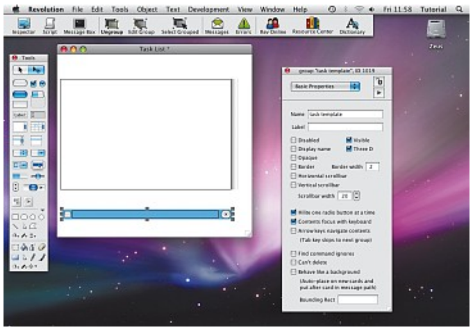


group "task list", ID 1004

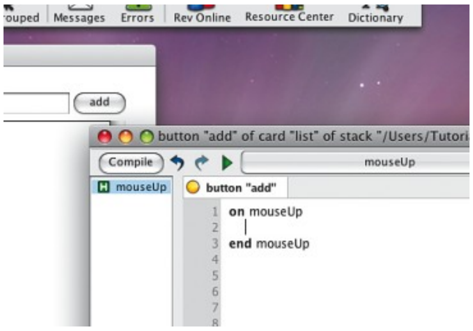
Basic Properties

Name: task list
Label:
☐ Disabled ☑ Visible
☐ Display name ☑ Three D
☐ Opaque
☐ Border Border width 2
☐ Horizontal scrollbar
☑ Vertical scrollbar
vScrollbar width 16

03 Make the task list display area into a group by selecting the graphic border, then clicking the **Group** tool in the toolbar. Use the **Basic Properties** pane to name it **task list** and select **Vertical scrollbar**. Select the size and position and turn on **Lock size and position**; the size needs to be fixed so that the group scrolls as tasks are added.



04 Now you want to create a task group. This will consist of a field to show the task description, a checkbox to show if it is completed, a delete button and a background graphic to give it colour. Drag these objects onto your stack from the **Tools** palette, select them all, group them and name the group **task template**.



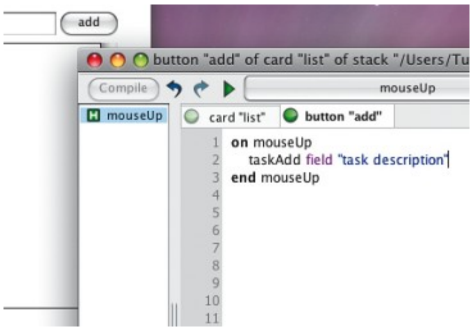
button "add" of card "list" of stack "/Users/Tutori

button "add"

```
on mouseUp

end mouseUp
```

05 Firstly you want to be able to add tasks to your list. Add a field called **task description** and a button called **add**, by dragging them out of the **Tools** palette onto your stack. Edit the script of the **add** button by selecting it and choosing **Object Script** in the **Object** menu; you will see the **on mouseUp** handler ready for you to add to.



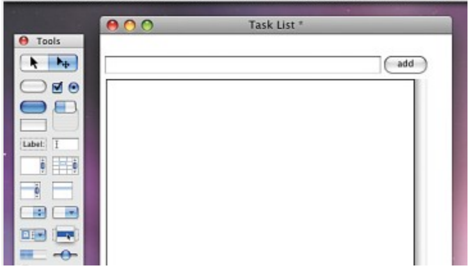
button "add" of card "list" of stack "/Users/Tu

card "list" button "add"

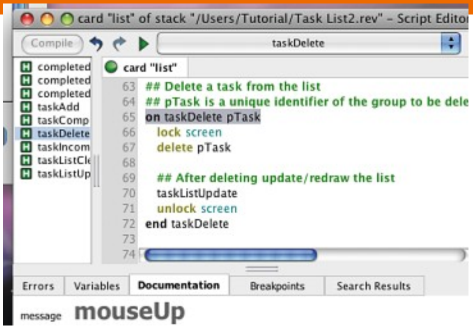
```
on mouseUp
   taskAdd field "task description"
end mouseUp
```

06 The command **taskAdd** should be implemented in the card script, accessed from the **Object** menu, and called when the **add** button is clicked. The contents of the **task description** field are sent as a parameter and a new task is created using the text. You can see the code in the example stack provided on the *MacFormat* disc.

STEP BY STEP Using Revolution Media to create an application… continued



07 The next step is to script the buttons in the **task group**, so the scripts will be copied to all tasks when the template is copied. We add commands to the buttons and code the commands on the card script so they are available to all controls. Selecting **Grouped** in the task bar allows you to select individual controls in a group.

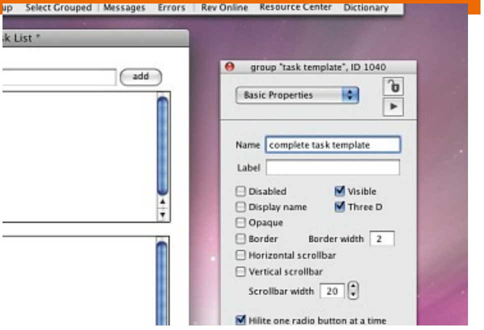


card "list" of stack "/Users/Tutorial/Task List2.rev" – Script Editor

```
## Delete a task from the list
## pTask is a unique identifier of the group to be dele
on taskDelete pTask
  lock screen
  delete pTask

  ## After deleting update/redraw the list
  taskListUpdate
  unlock screen
end taskDelete
```

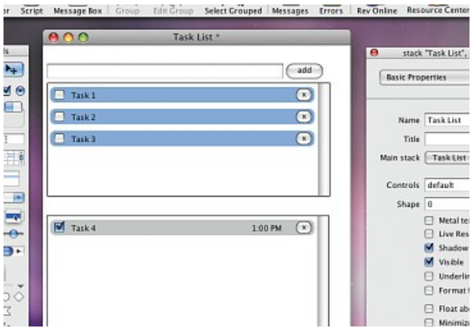
08 The **delete** button in the **task template** group calls the command **taskDelete** on the card script and has the name of the group to be deleted as a parameter. This removes the task from the **task list**, then calls **tasklistUpdate** to redraw the list. These commands are also implemented in the card script.



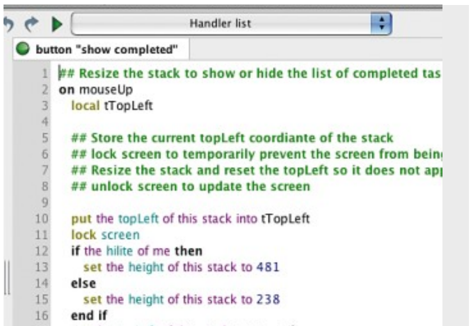
group "task template", ID 1040

Name: complete task template

09 You will also want to be able to mark tasks as completed. So add another group to show your list of completed tasks and create a **completed task template** group. This is almost the same as the **task template** but with the checkbox ticked and an additional field to show the time the task was completed.



10 To mark a task as completed you just check the box. This calls the command **taskCompleted** which removes the task from the **task list** and adds a new completed task to the **completed task list**. Completed tasks can also be added back to the main **task list** by unchecking the box, this calls **taskIncomplete**.



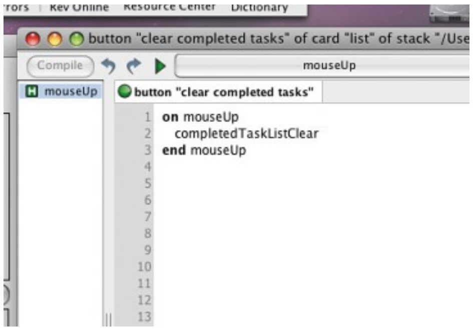
button "show completed"

```
## Resize the stack to show or hide the list of completed tas
on mouseUp
  local tTopLeft

  ## Store the current topLeft coordiante of the stack
  ## lock screen to temporarily prevent the screen from bein
  ## Resize the stack and reset the topLeft so it does not ap
  ## unlock screen to update the screen

  put the topLeft of this stack into tTopLeft
  lock screen
  if the hilite of me then
    set the height of this stack to 481
  else
    set the height of this stack to 238
  end if
```

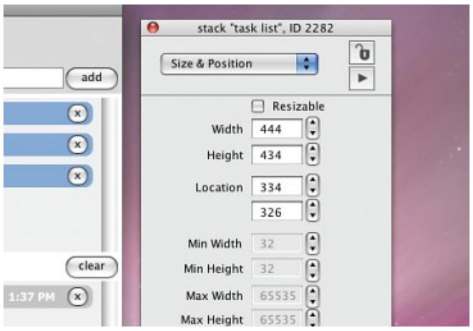
11 You might not want to show the list of completed tasks all the time, so add another checkbox and label it **show completed tasks**. Just add your code to the button script. If the box is checked, the completed task list is shown. Locking the screen means the screen is only updated once all the steps are complete, which looks better.



button "clear completed tasks"

```
on mouseUp
  completedTaskListClear
end mouseUp
```

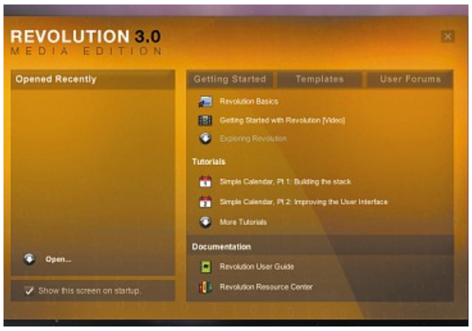
12 Next, add buttons allowing you to clear the lists completely. You should add a **clear** button for each list; call the commands **taskListClear** and **completedTasklistClear**. If you prefer you could combine these into a single **listClear** command to clear both lists. Again we will lock the screen to optimise performance.



stack "task list", ID 2282 – Size & Position

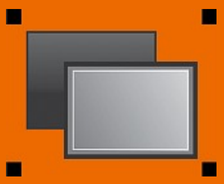
☐ Resizable
Width 444
Height 434
Location 334 326
Min Width 32
Min Height 32
Max Width 65535
Max Height 65535

13 Now you have a complete, functional application. Another great feature of *Revolution Media* is how easy it is to make applications look great. Using basic features such as graphics, borders and colours you can make your app more attractive. You also need to set the size of your stack to hide the template groups.



14 There are lots of possible extensions for this application, such as priorities, reminders and exporting task lists for use with other applications. All of these features and many more are possible with *Revolution Media*. Take a look at **Getting Started** and the templates in the **Start Centre** for more tutorials and ideas. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Groups are a flexible way of creating your user interface. Different types of objects such as buttons and fields can be grouped together. The group can then be used as a single entity.

EXPERT TIP

With *Revolution Media* it is easy to create a custom designed interface. Import images using import as control in the File menu; you can then use them as backgrounds or button icons.

Add great features to OS X

We show how Unsanity's WindowShade X can improve your Mac workflow

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.4.11 or Mac OS X 10.5
- *WindowShade X 4.2*
- Five minutes of your time
- A few windows to play with

Mac FORMAT On the disc

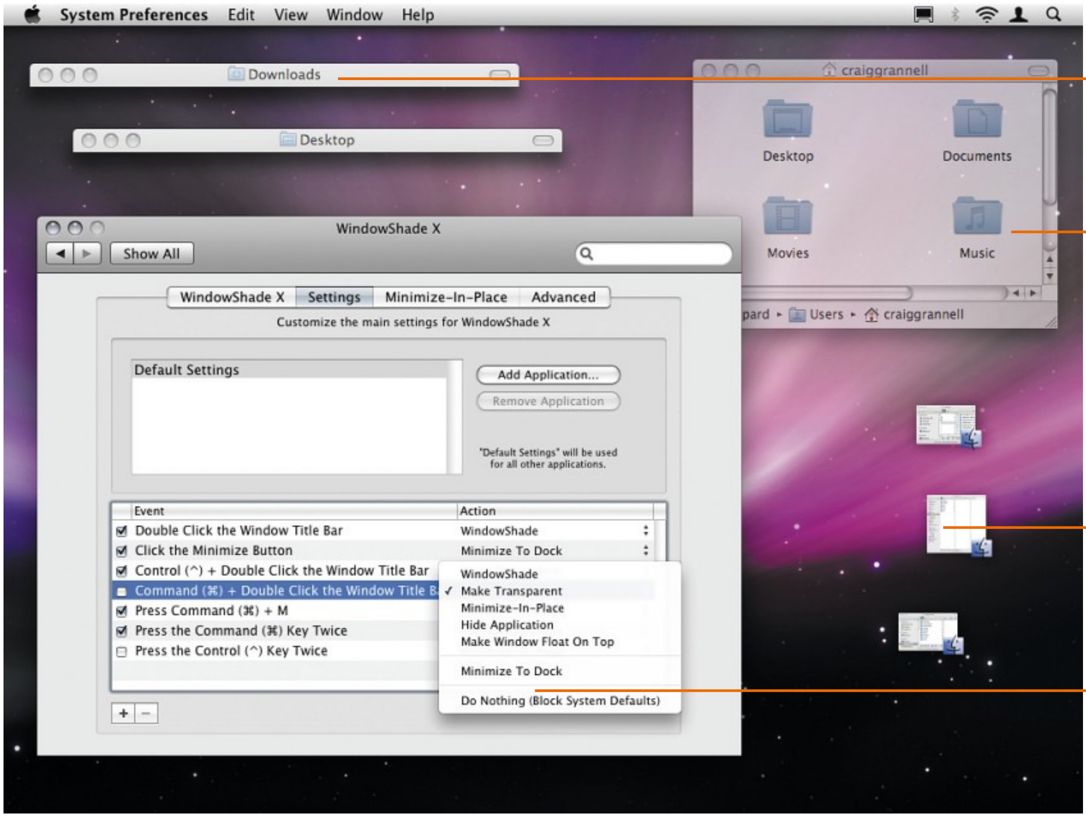
Find the trial of *WindowShade X 4.2* on this issue's disc.

Back in the old days of Mac OS 9, programs' windows were minimised to their title bars with a double-click (or by clicking the relevant widget), accompanied by a pleasing whooshing noise. This process was known as 'windowshading'.

Apple, in its infinite wisdom, decided that this just wouldn't do when working on OS X. And while it's fair to say that a screen sprinkled with loads of window title bars is messy, windowshading does provide the advantage of enabling you to rapidly see behind a window and then get it back, without fishing around for it in the Dock. Also, people who are particularly spatially aware may enjoy being able to shade a window, reducing the amount of space it occupies.

Unsanity's *WindowShade X* (review on p102) brings this functionality back. Along with making it so a double-click shades any application window, six other actions are available, including the system default (**Minimize to Dock**, which is initially assigned to each window's minimise button), the ability to hide the parent application, transparency, and minimising windows in place as thumbnails. Via *WindowShade X*'s *System Preferences* pane, each of these actions can be toggled and assigned to a pre-defined event (a combination of clicks and keyboard modifiers), and some effects can be tweaked, such as the level of window transparency and the behaviour of windows minimised in place. Get started with *WindowShade X* on step 1.
Craig Grannell

TOP FEATURES | The various ways of minimising windows


System Preferences
Edit
View
Window
Help
Downloads
Desktop
craiggrannell
Desktop
Documents
Movies
Music
Users
craiggrannell
WindowShade X
Show All
WindowShade X
Settings
Minimize-In-Place
Advanced
Add Application...
Remove Application
WindowShade
Make Transparent
Minimize-In-Place
Hide Application
Make Window Float On Top
Minimize To Dock
Do Nothing (Block System Defaults)

Customize the main settings for WindowShade X

Default Settings

"Default Settings" will be used for all other applications.

	Event	Action
☑	Double Click the Window Title Bar	WindowShade
☑	Click the Minimize Button	Minimize To Dock
☑	Control (^) + Double Click the Window Title Bar	
☐	Command (⌘) + Double Click the Window Title B	✓ Make Transparent
☑	Press Command (⌘) + M	
☑	Press the Command (⌘) Key Twice	
☐	Press the Control (^) Key Twice	

WindowShade

This is the classic way of minimising a window to its title bar from pre-Mac OS X days. *WindowShade X* brings this functionality back.

Transparency

Windows can be made semi-transparent using the options in *WindowShade X*. The level of transparency can be tweaked.

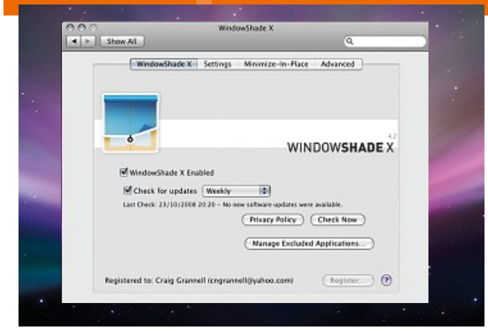
Tiny windows

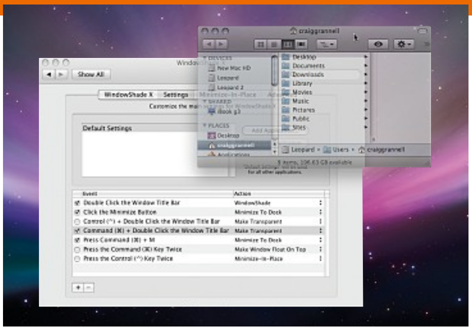
Windows can be minimised in place as wee stackable thumbnails, so they take up less room on your Desktop but are still visible.

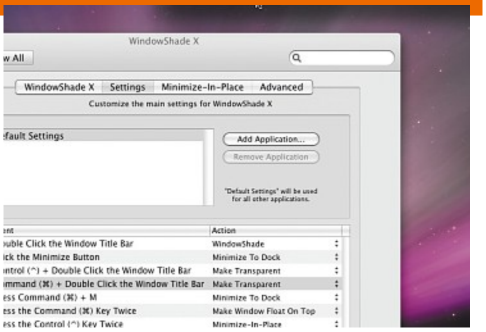
Alternate settings

Other minimise options that *WindowShade* has include **Hide Application** and the standard **Minimize to Dock.**

STEP BY STEP Getting started with WindowShade X





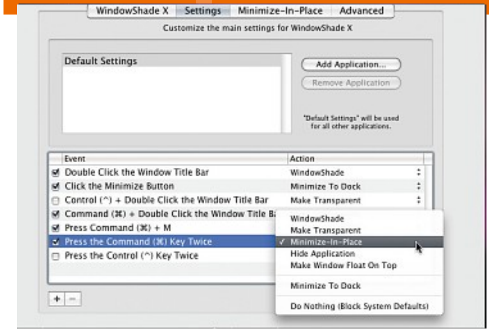


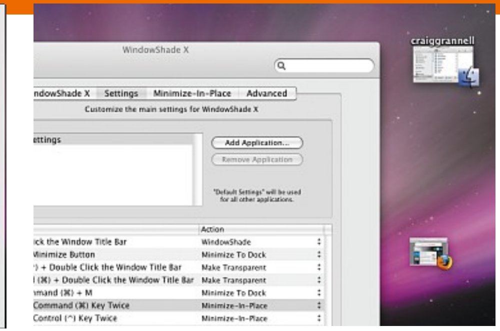
01 Install *WindowShade X* and restart your Mac to ensure everything will work properly. Open *System Preferences*, select **WindowShade X** and ensure that **WindowShade X Enabled** is checked. All applications subsequently launched will be affected by the add-on.

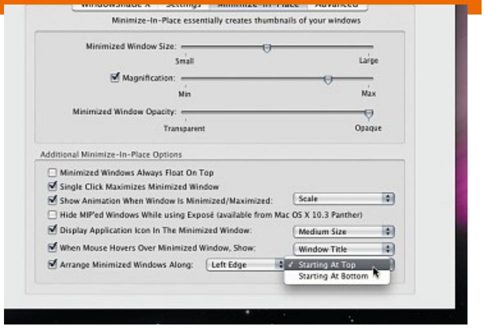
02 In **Settings**, uncheck the third checkbox (**Control...**) and check the fourth (**Command...**). This remaps the transparency action to ⌘-double-click ([Ctrl]-clicking many title bars in Leopard brings up a contextual menu). Open a new *Finder* window, hold ⌘ and double-click the window's title bar – it will become semi-transparent.

03 ⌘-double-click the window title bar again and the window will return to normal. Double-click the title bar without holding a key and the window will shade, collapsing to its title bar. Double-click it again for it to return to normal. (Note: if performing an action on an already shaded window, the new effect will be invoked immediately.)

STEP BY STEP Minimising windows in place



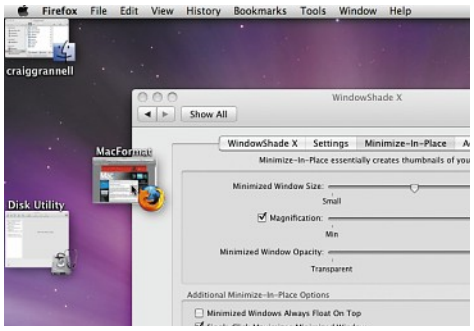


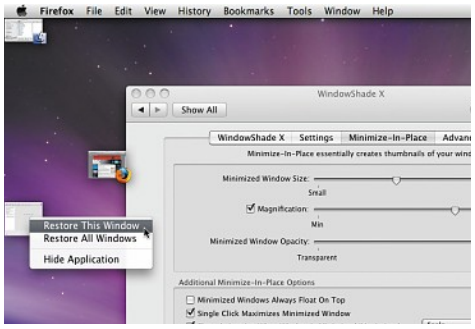


01 One of *WindowShade X*'s most interesting features is something long-rumoured to appear in Mac OS X, but that never actually made it: the ability to minimise windows in place as thumbnails, rather than sending them to the Dock. In **Settings**, ensure **Press the Command Key Twice** is checked and define its action as **Minimize-In-Place**.

02 Next, focus a window from another application, such as *Finder*, and press the ⌘ key twice. The window will minimise in place (complete with an icon to show its parent application) and can be dragged anywhere on the screen. Repeat this with various other windows. Clicking a window restores it back to full size.

03 Back in *WindowShade X*'s preferences, access the **Minimize-In-Place** section. This enables you to fine-tune the way this feature works. The most interesting of the available options is **Arrange Minimized Windows Along**. Check this and then set the two menus to **Left Edge** and **Starting at Top**, respectively.

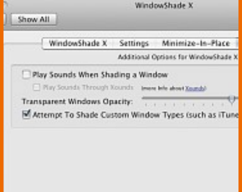




04 If you have windows already minimised in place, they should snap to your defined location, one under the other, although individual windows remain draggable until another is minimised in this fashion. To revert your thumbnail windows back to how they were, uncheck the **Arrange...** box and drag them about.

05 Although single-clicking on a window maximises it, this action is sometimes a little awkward, not working immediately. Another way of maximising a thumbnail window is by [Ctrl]-clicking it and selecting **Restore This Window**. You can also restore all an application's windows by selecting **Restore All Windows** from this menu. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Via the Advanced preferences section, you can determine whether a sound is played when an action is performed and the opacity of transparent windows.

EXPERT TIP

Windows minimised in place aren't expanded in Exposé. To hide them from showing, select the Hide... option in the Minimize-In-Place section of *WindowShade X*'s preferences.

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Mac
Mac
200

Words **Rob Mead** Illustration **MagicTorch**

Create your own digital home

With your Mac at its core, setting up a digital home is easy. We show you four ways to domestic bliss…

One of the best things about owning a Mac is that Apple has always put it at the heart of your entertainment needs – from *iTunes* and *iLife* through to products like Apple TV and AirPort Express. It's all about getting your music, movies and photos where you want them, how you want them, when you want them. It's all about placing your Mac at the centre of your digital life and home.

> **"ANY MAC IS SUITABLE AS A DIGITAL HUB, PROVIDED YOU OWN MAC OS X, iPHOTO AND iTUNES"**

We're going to look at how you put all these options together, what the benefits and pitfalls are and even some next steps you might consider to really get the best from your Mac-centric digital home.

The obvious place to start is with the Mac itself. The latest generation iMac is perfect digital home material – it comes with a large widescreen display and even the £799 20-inch version ships with a 250GB hard disk drive – enough for a decent-sized *iTunes* library, with plenty of room left over for your photos and home movies. That 20-inch widescreen could be used as a substitute study or bedroom TV – provided you're prepared to watch programmes or films online, or to invest in a TV tuner – you can find out more in the box titled Watch And Record TV On Your Mac, page 73.

The best home-oriented Mac is the top-of-the-range iMac (from £1,389). Not only does it boast 1TB of storage, but it also comes with a gorgeous 24-inch widescreen display. For the ultimate digital home solution though, something from Apple's Mac Pro line is the way to go. True, they're less living room friendly, but the Mac Pros have four hard drive bays for massive storage. They're also impossibly quick – perfect for multimedia use.

In reality, almost any Mac you own is suitable for a digital hub, provided you're running a recent copy of Mac OS X, plus *iPhoto* and *iTunes*. All you really need is a decent amount of storage and some flavour of WiFi – with 802.11n networking via AirPort Express (£65), AirPort Extreme (£119) or Time Capsule (£199-£329) being the preferred option.

Let's say your needs are relatively modest. You have a Mac in your study or bedroom, but would like to be able to listen to your *iTunes* library in the lounge – a pretty common requirement. There are four different ways to approach this…

YOUR MAC AS PART OF THE TRUE DIGITAL HOME

Although Apple has made tremendous efforts to deliver the digital home experience to ordinary Mac users, the truth is that it's still a minnow where truly multi-room home automation and integration is concerned. While this would never be admitted, it's partly Apple's fault – its insistence on the cross-platform implementation of FairPlay DRM effectively prevents third-party systems from using afflicted content; but it's also the nature of the beast.

Companies such as AMX, Crestron and others would much prefer that you spend thousands, or even tens of thousands of pounds on their proprietary solutions – chiefly because custom-installed, robust, wired connections are still preferable to anything wireless, and not just because of concerns over the quality of streaming media. Indeed, true home automation and digital home integration encompasses practical applications as varied as heating and ventilation, blind and curtain control, home security and lighting.

Having said that, there is some meeting of minds: Sonos (**www.sonos.com**) makes the most Mac-friendly multi-room solutions by far, enabling you to hook up its range of Zone players, amps and speakers to the Mac so that you can pipe *iTunes* audio to up to 264 rooms in your home (although we doubt Bill Gates has this particular setup). You can buy a Sonos Bundle 150 starter system comprising two Zone players and an iPod-like remote control for £699.

We tip our hats to Denon, too, whose high-end AVC-A1HD home cinema receiver (£3,800) has been expressly designed to be platform-agnostic – and that just happens to include FairPlay-free *iTunes* AAC files. It even supports photo streaming from your Mac to large, flat panel TVs.

Most solutions are focused on using the iPod as the source of all content, with hi-fi companies such as Arcam, Denon and Harman Kardon selling iPod docks that dovetail into their audio and video solutions.

It's quite possible that DRM (Digital Rights Management) won't be with us that much longer, however. The iTunes Store is already offering some music tracks as DRM-free under the banner of iTunes Plus. They are more expensive, but recorded at a higher bit rate than standard *iTunes* tracks. Steve Jobs is no fan of DRM, either, but since Apple doesn't own or control the music on the iTunes Store, the company is at the mercy of the "big four" record labels.

01 STREAMING YOUR iTUNES LIBRARY TO ANOTHER MAC

The simplest solution is to turn sharing on in *iTunes*. You can do that by going to iTunes > Preferences > Sharing. Make sure the box marked **Share My Library On My Local Network** is checked and then pick exactly what you'd like to share – your entire library or specific playlists.

You should now be able to discover that shared library on another Mac – a lounge-based MacBook, say – by also firing up its version of *iTunes* and selecting iTunes > Preferences > Sharing > Look For Shared Libraries. What you should see now is a streaming version of the contents of your *iTunes* library, listing either playlists or the whole shebang.

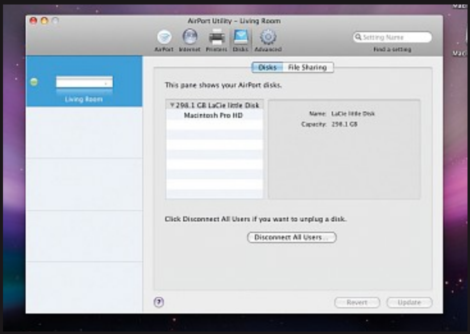
Streaming *iTunes* through a quality amplifier makes a big difference to your music.

02 STREAM YOUR iTUNES LIBRARY TO YOUR HI-FI

If your interests are purely musical then you can stream suitable content to an old school hi-fi system using AirPort Express. Whether you own the older 802.11g version or the newer 802.11n one, the results are largely the same.

To make it work, plug the AirPort Express into a power socket next to your hi-fi, hook it up to the back of your amp using a suitable analogue or digital audio cable and then stream your audio using the relevant *AirTunes* option that appears in *iTunes*.

The only downside is that you won't be able to control what your hi-fi is playing – you'll still need access to your *iTunes* library. That could be a problem if your Mac is upstairs rather than right in front of you. However, you can pick up third-party products such as Keyspan Express Remote (£31 online), which works with AirPort Express and AirTunes to overcome this. Or you could simply stream and, crucially, control *iTunes* audio from your Mac using Logitech's Squeezebox Duet (£279), which comprises both a receiver and remote control with 2.4-inch colour display.



This pane shows your AirPort disks.

Name: LaCie little Disk
Capacity: 298.1 GB

Click Disconnect All Users if you want to unplug a disk.

Setting up a central hard drive for your music, movies and photos is easy. Here you can see that we've already added one to the USB port of our AirPort Extreme.

03 USE YOUR MAC'S SHARED FOLDER

Streaming content from one place to another is great, but what if you want more control of your *iTunes* library – to add content stored elsewhere, or to share the same library among different users on the same Mac? Your best bet is to copy your *iTunes* **Music** folder to the **Shared** folder on your Mac.

By default *iTunes* places the *iTunes* **Music** folder in Home> Music > iTunes > iTunes Music. To change it, simply go to iTunes > Preferences > Advanced, then pick your **iTunes** folder location. In this case it would be Macintosh HD > Users > Shared > iTunes Music. The next trick is to move all your media from *iTunes*' default music folder to the new location by picking File > Library> Consolidate Library. You may have to wait a while while it does this. Also make sure you've checked Preferences > Advanced > Copy Files To iTunes Music Folder When Adding To Library. Then simply make sure other versions of *iTunes* – being used by different people on the same Mac, or on separate Macs – are all pointing to the same location.

> "STREAMING CONTENT IS GREAT, BUT WHAT IF YOU WANT MORE CONTROL OF YOUR iTUNES LIBRARY?"

Now this is where is gets slightly tricky. Remember we said only to copy your *iTunes* Music folder? That was to avoid the possibility that other users might mess around with your playlists. To help ensure this doesn't happen you need to keep the *iTunes* Library ITL and XML files in their original location – this way everyone who accesses your *iTunes* **Music** folder will run their own version of *iTunes*.

The downside is that *iTunes* music sharing in this way isn't true multi-user. If you or someone else adds, edits or removes content in the *iTunes* **Music** folder you'll need to re-index the entire library using File > Add To Library. You can simplify that process by choosing to update the relevant files if you know what they are. It's a little irksome, but it's doable.

SONOS
Kitchen
Living Room
Patio
Now Playing
Missing My Baby
G. Love
Lemonade
Play Mode
View Queue
zones
music
vol
SONOS
SONOS
SONOS

Sonos provides a unique Mac-friendly multi-room solution for streaming *iTunes* music.

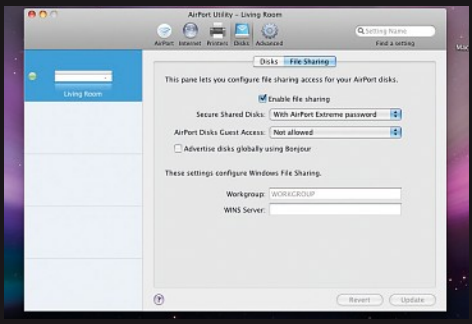
Time Capsule comes with the option of 500GB or 1TB hard drives, making it a great choice for storing your movies, music and photos centrally.

04 USING AN EXTERNAL DRIVE OR AIRDISK

The same rules apply if you keep your *iTunes* **Music** folder on an external hard disk connected to your Mac, or on a drive connected to the USB port of your AirPort Express, or AirPort Extreme wireless router (where it's known as an AirDisk). The other option is to keep your *iTunes* **Music** folder on the hard drive built into your Time Capsule – assuming you don't use all of its storage for wireless *Time Machine* backups, of course.

If you plan to store your **iTunes Music** folder via this route, though, there's another caveat: trying to copy hundreds or even thousands of media files wirelessly to an off-board disk drive will take an absolute age. Seriously, go out for the day, book yourself into a spa or visit some relatives for the weekend. The quickest way is to hook the external drive to your source Mac via Ethernet, USB or FireWire first and then hit **Consolidate Library**.

Assuming you've done all that then, how well does it work? Of all the options covered here, copying your *iTunes* **Music** library to an external hard drive connected to an AirPort Extreme probably works out to be the worst – it's noticeably less responsive than sticking music and movies in Users > Shared on your main Mac, especially if you plan to be doing other things, such as surfing the web, while also serving up DVD-quality movies and music to anyone on the network. You'll notice that audio and video playback can skip or drop frames, compromising your enjoyment. Mind you, you'll notice that too when different users try to access the same *iTunes* or *QuickTime* movie at the same time wirelessly, no matter where your content is stored. For this reason, it's best to work out a set of sharing rules among users.



This pane lets you configure file sharing access for your AirPort disks.

☑ Enable file sharing

Secure Shared Disks: With AirPort Extreme password

AirPort Disks Guest Access: Not allowed

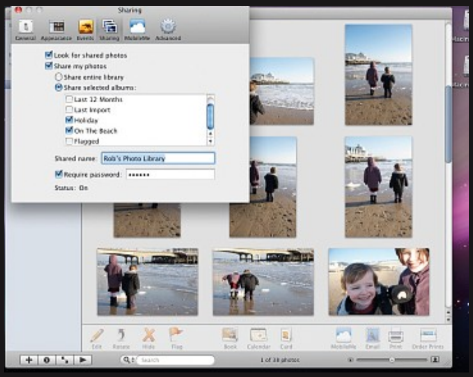
☐ Advertise disks globally using Bonjour

These settings configure Windows File Sharing.

Workgroup: WORKGROUP

WINS Server:

This preference pane in AirPort Utility enables you to set your sharing preferences for an external hard drive (AirDisk) that you've connected to an AirPort Extreme.



☑ Look for shared photos

☑ Share my photos

○ Share entire library

● Share selected albums:

☐ Last 12 Months

☐ Last Import

☑ Holiday

☑ On The Beach

☐ Flagged

Shared name: Rob's Photo Library

☑ Require password: ••••••

Status: On

Giving access to your photos to everyone in your home is easy. Simply select the **Sharing** tab and then choose the best option to suit your needs.

05 SHARE YOUR PHOTOS, PRINT ANYWHERE

So far we've really focused on *iTunes* sharing, its benefits and its pitfalls. What about giving everyone access to your photos? Luckily, many of the concepts we've explained so far are relevant for *iPhoto* too. To activate sharing in *iPhoto '08*, simply go to iPhoto > Preferences > Sharing and click the **Share My Photos** checkbox. As with *iTunes* you can choose what to share and what not to share.

The other option is again to make your *iPhoto* library truly share-able by copying it to a location where everyone can access and edit the content. The difference this time is that *iPhoto* expressly warns you when someone is in the middle of editing a photo you're trying to access. This may be a good or a bad thing, depending on how much of a control freak you are – after all, it's not nice to discover that someone's drawn glasses, a big nose and a moustache on every picture of you, even if you have those physical attributes already…

> "MANY OF THE CONCEPTS WE'VE EXPLAINED SO FAR ARE RELEVANT FOR iPHOTO TOO"

Finally, don't forget that you can use your AirPort Extreme, AirPort Express or Time Capsule router for wireless printing anywhere in your home. Simply hook your printer up to the relevant USB port, install any required drivers and then add it to your range of printing options by selecting > System Preferences > Print & Fax, where it should pop up automatically. ●

WATCH AND RECORD TV ON YOUR MAC

Apple may not build TV tuners into its Macs any more (hello black Performa 5400), but that shouldn't stop you from watching and recording your favourite shows on your Mac.

Aside from watching streaming content via the internet using BBC iPlayer and others, there are a growing number of TV solutions for you. The biggest name has to be Elgato, which makes a range of analogue TV, hybrid analogue/digital TV and digital TV tuners for the Mac. These usually slot into a spare USB port and include a coaxial socket so that you can pipe TV signals straight from your TV aerial into your Mac – our pick is the EyeTV DTT Deluxe (£60), an impossibly small digital terrestrial tuner that can be slotted into the USB port next to the MagSafe power socket on your MacBook or MacBook Pro.

All Elgato TV tuners ship with its *EyeTV 3* software, which includes a searchable electronic programme guide (EPG) and enables you to record programmes using the H.264 video codec so you can share them with other members of your household. Alternatives to Elgato include the Miglia TVBook Pro Express (£85 online), which uses the Express Card slot on the MacBook Pro, or the spanking new PCTV nanoStick Ultimate (£50) from Pinnacle – a USB tuner bundled with Mac-friendly software.

MacBook Air

WHERE DOES APPLE TV FIT IN?

Ostensibly a media adaptor on steroids, Apple TV is Apple's first serious assault on the living room space. Available in two flavours – £199 for 40GB and £269 for 160GB – it's been designed to be hooked up to a flat panel TV via HDMI (for the best possible picture quality). It can be used either to receive steaming music, movies and photos from other Macs in your home network, or to store them in their entirety onto its built-in hard disk.

Apple, of course, would like to source most of the content from the *iTunes* Store. However, there's little to stop you – legal and copyright issues aside – from also using it as a depository for ripped CDs and DVDs, copied to it from your main computer.

Perennial bugbears include the lack of a built-in optical disc drive (what, no Blu-ray?) or even a built-in TV tuner so that you can turn it into a personal video recorder. For what it does do, Apple TV works very well. But we hope and suspect that Apple has bigger plans for this device. Only time will tell.

The Apple TV could well have a more exciting future ahead of it.

Q&A

Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

This issue, Luis Villazon goes after corrupt PDFs, breaks into a locked DVD drive and gives a lesson in Greek

QUICK TIP

Make an iCal event with Mail

If you receive an email that mentions any sort of date, you can mouse over the date text to display a drop-down menu. This lets you create an *iCal* event for it automatically.

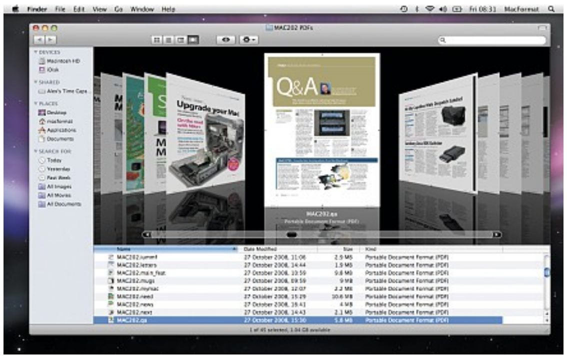
CORRUPTED PDFS WITH LEOPARD

Q **I've a problem with my Documents folder that has made my one-year-old iMac almost unusable. I'm running Mac OS X 10.5.5. Almost every document in my Documents folder is a PDF file and they're all arranged into sub-folders. The problem is that whenever I open the Documents folder I get the spinning beach ball and the whole machine hangs. Nothing works and the only remedy is to hold the power switch to shut down.**

Sometimes the folder will open, but when I try to scroll down my list of sub-folders it hangs. Occasionally, I can open a sub-folder but clicking on an individual file will make it hang. I suspect that there's a document in there that the OS doesn't like, but it's impossible to go through them to find out which one it might be.

So far I've tried repairing permissions and I've even re-installed Leopard by doing an erase and re-install – then copying back everything from a *Time Machine* backup. That didn't work – presumably because the corrupt file was simply re-installed from the backup. What can I do? I'm tearing my hair out and haven't got access to any of my data despite using *Time Machine*.

James Robertson



PDFs created in *OpenOffice.org* have been known to cause *Preview* to crash.

A There are a couple of possibilities. The first is that you have one or more corrupted PDF files and *Finder* is trying to launch *Preview* to display the automatic document preview. There are several reports of PDFs created in *OpenOffice.org* causing *Preview* to crash since Leopard 10.5.5. You can test this by turning off file and icon preview in *Finder* for the Documents folder (View > Show view options). If this stops the lock-ups, you can try opening your PDFs one at a time in *Preview* until you find the one(s) that cause the lock-ups. Then make sure you have the latest updates for *OpenOffice.org* and Mac OS X and recreate the troublesome PDFs, minus the trouble.

If this doesn't help or you aren't using *OpenOffice.org*, it could be the ATSServer process used to index files for Spotlight. With folders that have a large number of PDFs, this process can sometimes run wild and consume huge amounts of CPU time and memory. The simplest solution in this case is to exclude the **Documents** folder from Spotlight searches. Go to

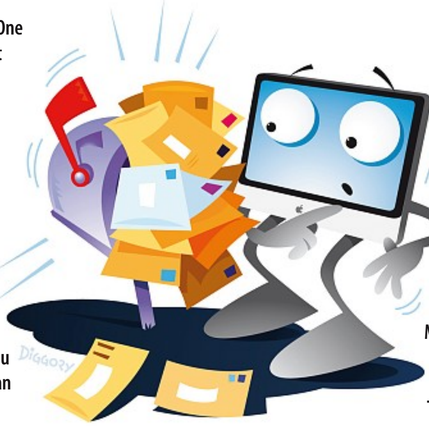
Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from MacWarehouse

YOU'VE GOT (OLD) MAIL

If you're anything like me and you keep copies of old emails going back many years, you may be in for an awkward time if you want to switch from Windows to Mac OS X. While it's relatively easy to move most of your documents over from a PC to a Mac, things are more difficult when it comes to email. The reason for this is that, just like other applications, many email programs use their own format for storing emails, marking them as read, forwarded, replied and so on. But unlike other apps, it isn't that common for them to simply be able to open each other's files.

Pages may be able to open a *Word* document and *Numbers* an *Excel* one, but *Mail* can't open an *Outlook* for Windows PST mail archive; what's worse is that *Entourage* can't open it either. One other bit of salt to rub into the wound is that *Entourage* can't import PST files created by *Outlook 2001* since it uses a different format of PST file.

If you look on Microsoft's Mactopia page for *Entourage,* 'Help and How-To', it sounds so simple. You're told to export your messages from your Windows-based computer as an MBOX file, which is about as standard a type of mail store as you can get. This can then be easily imported into *Entourage* or *Mail*, so it looks like we're good to go. What they don't tell you is that *Outlook* can't actually export mail as an MBOX file. The Microsoft Most Valuable Professional website suggests that the best way to get an MBOX file out of *Outlook* is firstly to open the PST file in another mail program – Mozilla's *Thunderbird* – and then to use a plug-in for *Thunderbird* to output the MBOX files.



If you have a PowerPC-based Mac and haven't upgraded to Leopard yet you can use *Outlook 2001*, which you'll need to run under Classic. *Outlook 2001* can open a Windows PST file, move all your email to a new mail folder (which is a Macintosh PST file) and that can then be imported into *Entourage* using Microsoft's *PST Import Tool*, which you'll find under 'Additional Tools' at **www.microsoft.com/mac/downloads.**

System Preferences > Spotlight and add Documents to the list on the **Privacy** tab.

HOW DO I BOOT MY G3 TOWER?

Q My G3 tower (running Mac OS 8.6) isn't starting up (it shows an alternating flashing smiley Mac logo and question mark). I've recently bought a 2.6GHz iMac and it was suggested to me that I try starting the old machine by connecting it to the iMac with a FireWire cable and putting this in Target Disk Mode, then having the G3 start from the iMac.

This isn't having the desired effect. The G3 sounds like it can't find a startup disk, or possibly the hard disk is damaged. I bought this machine second-hand and the startup CD has been mislaid.

Dermot Mulcahy

A Target Disk Mode is designed to let you turn a Mac into an external hard disk. I'm not sure which way round you're trying to use Target Disk Mode, but I'm afraid that either way it isn't going to work. G3 Power Macs have the FireWire interface on a separate module, rather than integrated with the motherboard, which means that they can't be started in Target Disk Mode. They can be used to access other Macs in Target Disk Mode, but unfortunately, you can't access drives on Intel Macs (like your new iMac) from anything older than OS 10.3.9.

The flashing question mark/smiley Mac indicates that the G3 can't find the operating system. This could be because the System Folder is missing or damaged or it could be because the hard disk is on the blink. Second-hand sets of OS 8 or 9 are fairly cheap on eBay and I'd start with that before considering any hardware repairs.

A flashing smiley Mac logo alternating with a question mark means your OS has gone AWOL.

DVD PLAYER WON'T PLAY ON iMAC

Q When I bought my shiny new iMac I had Tiger running, and when I loaded a disc the *DVD Player* application would automatically load and run my DVD. I've since upgraded to Leopard and *DVD Player* is no longer available; it's nowhere in sight. I now have to go into *Front Row* to play my discs. Where has the player gone? According to *The Missing Manual*, it should be there.

H E Bishop

A It should indeed. The first thing to do is open System Preferences > CDs & DVDs and see what **When you insert a video DVD** is set to. If this doesn't say **Open DVD Player**, change it so that it does and try again.

I'm asking you to do this just for the sake of being thorough. It's most likely that your machine is suffering from a problem in the Leopard graphics update that was introduced just after 10.5.2. There are reports of *DVD Player* failing to start after this update. In some cases 10.5.3 fixed the problem, but in others it hasn't.

So what should you do? The least satisfactory response is to just carry on using *Front Row*. Almost as bad is to be forced to use another DVD player such as *VLC*. But these are workarounds, not solutions. A better idea would be to roll back the graphics update, but there's no officially sanctioned way to do this. There's an unofficial patch that will replace the older Leopard graphics system files, which is discussed on the Apple forum at **http://tinyurl.com/552qqt**. If you're feeling brave, you can jump straight to the download link at **http://tinyurl.com/5k92pw**. This won't permanently lock your graphics system – if you install the 10.5.2 combo update you'll jump to the new system again. But ordinary system updates shouldn't affect it unless and until the Leopard graphics system is patched.

iSTAT PRO: WHAT'S NORMAL?

Q The widget *iStat pro* (*MacFormat*, November 2008, page 37) measures fan speed and temperatures, among other things. As far as I can tell, it doesn't indicate what the normal range is for these figures, so it's not easy to see if a problem is starting to emerge. Is there anywhere ►

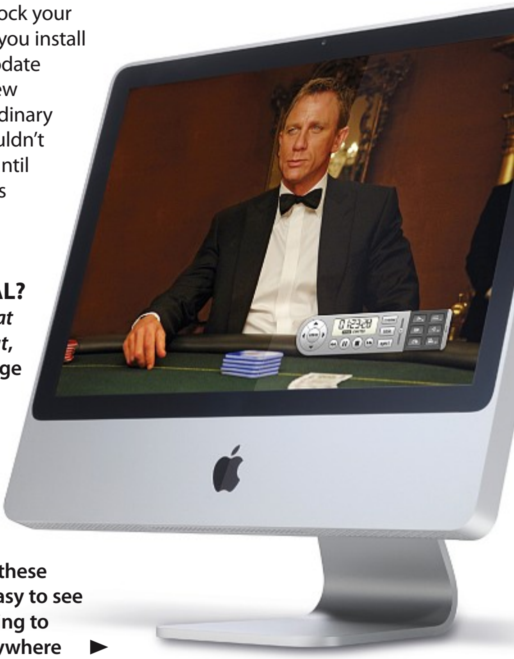
QUICK TIP
New email contacts

You can use the signature lines at the bottom of an email to automatically create a new *Address Book* contact. Just mouse over the telephone number and the drop-down menu will appear.

QUICK TIP
iCal sharing sites

You can add public events such as fixtures for sports teams or band tour dates to *iCal* using one of several calendar sharing sites. Try **http://iCalShare.com** or **www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/calendars**.

Even Bond would have trouble charming *DVD Player* if it refused to play ball.



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mspx. What you won't find is *Outlook 2001*, as that's disappeared from Microsoft's website, although I was able to locate it through VersionTracker (**www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macos/2909**). You'll also need an empty *Exchange* profile (**http://blog.entourage.mvps.org/downloads/2007/EmptyExchangeProfile.sit**) since by default *Outlook 2001* expects to be connected to an *Exchange* server. You can also move your calendar and contacts over using this method.

Moving your address book over from a PC is a bit less painful. You can open each contact and choose to save it as a vCard, or if you want to move your contacts en masse you can export them as a CSV text file and import it into *Address Book*, to match fields in the text file to your default card format.

By far the cleanest way to move email and contacts from Windows to Mac is also probably the most time consuming. If you have an IMAP email account available then copying all of your mail from your PC to the server and then from the server to your Mac is a workable option, and it's one of the few ways to properly preserve all the metadata about the email, such as when it was received, as well as attachments.

If all of that sounds like too much hard work, I'd agree with you. If you want to move your mail and contacts over from a PC, there's a far easier way. *O2M* from Little Machines (**www.littlemachines.com**) installs on your PC and you can export your mail, contacts and calendars in MBOX, vCard and *iCal* formats and it only costs $10 (£6).

Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse
www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Web clip widgets

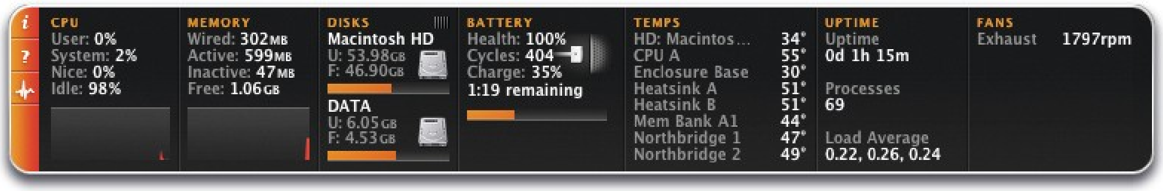
If you follow lots of different web comics, a good way to collect them all in one place is to use the Web clip widget. It's the scissors icon on the *Safari* toolbar and it lets you select a part of any web page and then add it to *Dashboard*. This clip will update every time you open *Dashboard*, so you'll always have the latest comic displayed.

one can obtain the normal ranges for temperatures and fan speed?
Greg McCarry

A This is putting the cart before the horse. Monitoring utilities like *iStat pro* are mostly there to satisfy the obsessives among us. Insofar as they are useful at all, their purpose is to pinpoint the location of an overheating situation or confirm an overheating diagnosis. There's no need to monitor the temperatures of the internal components of your Mac because the motherboard is already doing that for you and it's designed to adjust the fan speeds accordingly.

If you never hear the fans ramping up, even when playing 3D games for long periods of time, or if you notice strange graphical glitches with 3D applications, then you may have a problem with the thermoregulation system and it can be useful to check the temperatures in *iStat pro*. You should normally expect most of the temperatures to be in the 30-40C range, with the CPU running as high as 40-50C under load. Hard disk or motherboard temperatures over 50C, or graphics card temperatures over 55C might be worth investigating.

When it comes to temperature control and heat dissipation, your Mac looks after itself.



iStat pro provides you with a ream of hardware results, but do you need them?

```
CPU          MEMORY           DISKS            BATTERY            TEMPS                  UPTIME            FANS
User: 0%     Wired: 302MB     Macintosh HD     Health: 100%       HD: Macintos...   34°  Uptime            Exhaust   1797rpm
System: 2%   Active: 599MB    U: 53.98GB       Cycles: 404        CPU A             55°  0d 1h 15m
Nice: 0%     Inactive: 47MB   F: 46.90GB       Charge: 35%        Enclosure Base    30°
Idle: 98%    Free: 1.06GB                      1:19 remaining     Heatsink A        51°  Processes
                              DATA                                Heatsink B        51°  69
                              U: 6.05GB                           Mem Bank A1       44°
                              F: 4.53GB                           Northbridge 1     47°  Load Average
                                                                  Northbridge 2     49°  0.22, 0.26, 0.24
```

STUCK DVD IN iMAC DRIVE

Q **My DVD/RW drive failed to eject a DVD I had been watching, and rather than spend loads of cash getting it replaced, I bought an external one. Since then I've bought OS X Leopard only to find out later that it isn't possible to upgrade the operating system via an external drive. Can you verify this please, and if it's so, is there any way round the problem? I'm using a 2GHz Intel iMac.**
Alan Rossiter

A A surprising number of people seem to just leave stuck discs in their iMacs and buy another drive instead. I wouldn't stand for that.

First, try all the standard methods to force the disc to eject from software: using the eject option from *Disk Utility*; holding the left mouse button down while you restart; typing **drutil tray eject** in *Terminal*. If none of that helps, you may have a dead drive, but it's also possible that you have a warped or damaged disc that's physically jammed in the drive. Ominous grinding noises when your Mac starts up are a good indication of this. If that's the case, you owe it to yourself and your Mac to free this disc. Removing the bezel from an iSight iMac isn't that hard (there are step-by-step instructions at **http://tinyurl.com/6m5t2t**, for example) and once you've done that, you should be able to get at the drive with a palette knife and some needle-nosed pliers to extract the recalcitrant disc. Look at it this way: you can't really do any harm since you've already effectively resigned yourself to the loss of the entire drive.

But let's suppose you try and fail at this procedure. Or the drive really does turn out to be broken. Is there any way to install Leopard? Yes there is, but as well as an external DVD drive, you'll need an external (and bootable) hard disk drive. Using *Disk Utility*, create a separate 7.2GB partition on this external drive. Now insert the Leopard DVD and *restore* from this DVD to the 7.2GB partition. You should tick the 'erase destination' option because this will perform a byte-by-byte copy of the disk, rather than just copying all of the files. You can then restart your iMac with the ⌥ key held down and select your external hard disk from the menu that

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

CANNOT START UP

Several users have reported difficulty starting up after applying Security Update 2007-008. These issues include getting stuck at the Apple logo screen and boots into single-user mode.

MacFixIt reader Michael writes: "When I apply the Security Update 2007-008 to my iMac, I see the Apple logo and the spinning wheel for a minute, then it shuts down and restarts."

Another reader writes: "Both my MacBook Air and iMac, running 10.5.5, had a panic kernel after rebooting while doing this update. I didn't try with the Mac mini, because it acts as my server and I don't won't to take a chance."

The first recommended procedure, if you're experiencing this issue, is to simply boot in Safe Mode – accomplished by holding down the ⇧ key while your Mac is starting up. After the safe boot, restart normally. A number of maintenance tasks are performed during the safe boot, and you might not need to perform any additional troubleshooting. You might receive a message indicating that the update has finished installing after the safe boot.

You can also try temporarily disconnecting any USB, FireWire or other otherwise-connected external peripherals then re-attempt startup. Other possibilities include resetting the PRAM (hold ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R] keys at boot-up until the computer chimes, resets and chimes again) and SMC resets (Portables, Mac Pro), as well as shutting down and unplugging it for a few minutes before starting it back up.

Failing the aforementioned, you may need to delete specific caches, root out problematic kernel extensions, repair drive damage and disconnect external devices.

SAFARI, MAIL, WEBKIT APPS CRASH

Although Security Update 2007-008 doesn't make any explicit changes to WebKit, some users are experiencing issues with WebKit-based apps, including *Safari*, *Mail* and others after applying the update.

One reader writes: "Yesterday I installed the latest Security Update on my PowerPC G4. Initially I had crashing problems with *Safari*

AIMLESS LOGIN | Chatting at cross purposes

Q I've recently converted from PC to a 24-inch iMac, and read your magazine regularly each month. But I seem to have a problem on my Mac that I don't understand. I've set up *iChat* with my .Mac account, but very rarely use it. Very randomly, for no apparent reason, I have a pop-up message appear. It reads: 'Your screen name is now signed into AOL Instant Messenger in 2 locations. To sign off the other location(s), reply to this message with the number 1. Click here for more information.'

I do exactly as it asks by replying with a 1, but the message will appear again in the future.

I don't even use AOL, and I never have!

Richard Forster

A AOL *Instant Messenger* (AIM) 'supports' multiple simultaneous logins from different computers – a feature that seems to exist more for the convenience of the programmers than the customers. Apple uses the AOL servers to route *iChat* sessions. Even if you aren't signed up with a separate AOL screen name and even though you may not think you're running two simultaneous chat sessions, there are plenty of things that can trick the AOL servers into thinking you are. If you don't explicitly log out of *iChat* when you close the application, the servers may still leave you logged in at the server end. Also, if your wireless network or VPN (virtual private network) drops and restarts the connection, AOL may be fooled into thinking that there are now two connections from the same computer.

Other than the intrusiveness of the pop-up, there isn't really any problem with ignoring this message. There's a lot of misinformation on various internet forums suggesting that this error message is a sign that someone has hacked your chat account. Fortunately, this is overwhelmingly less likely than the possibilities I've already outlined.

It's not all that well known that *iChat* makes use of the AIM network.

appears. This should launch the Leopard installer correctly.

SHARING SONGS ON MULTIPLE iPODS

Q How can I transfer songs bought via *iTunes* (*iTunes* 8.0.1) from my iMac to my daughter's iPod nano? I don't want the songs to be copied onto my iPod so I've disabled this. My daughter's iPod has been set up using a Microsoft PC. I've tried dragging the songs across, but to no avail – can you offer any advice or a solution? Can it even be done?

Gary Thomson

A When you format an iPod on a Mac, it uses the HFS filing system, which can be read by Macs but not by PCs. However, iPods set up on the Windows version of *iTunes* will have the FAT32 filing system and this ought to be readable and writeable by both Windows and OS X. Unfortunately, *iTunes* will only allow each iPod to be registered to a single computer and plugging it into a different one will cause *iTunes* to automatically prompt you to erase the iPod. You can drag MP3s manually onto the iPod of course, but you can't do this with bought tunes that have DRM copy-protection built in.

Well, that's your problem restated for you, how about a solution? The easiest way around this is to use a single, shared folder to hold all the music for both the Mac and PC. This could be an external drive, a networked disk or just a folder on the hard disk of one of the computers. Sharing a folder on the Mac is probably the easiest. This will appear in the Network Neighborhood on the Windows machine and you can set *iTunes* on each computer to use this folder as its music library (iTunes > Preferences > Advanced). Make sure you clear the check box marked **Keep iTunes Music folder organised**, and you'll still need to ensure that you only sync the iPod on one computer or the other to avoid DRM pitfalls, but since they both have the same set of tunes, it won't matter which one you choose.

IT ALL SOUNDS GREEK TO ME

Q I have a basic sort of problem. I need to be able to read Greek on my Mac. But no matter what I've tried, I can't. However, using various fonts I can write Greek, for example αβγδεζηθικλμνξ. What do I need to do to be able to read Greek documents (and other language documents)? I'm a recent convert and I never faced this sort of issue with PCs. I don't think it's anything to do with the font in which the document was typed up.

Alexander Turner ▶

QUICK TIP

Multiple widgets

You can have multiple copies of many widgets on the *Dashboard*. So if, for example, you want to know the weather in two different cities, you can have two copies of the *Weather* widget.

---

only. This morning any app which relies on WebCore appears to be unstable. These include *Mail* and *Safari*."

A potential workaround is to install the latest version of the nightly WebKit build, although doing so may obviate Apple security enhancements and introduce other conflicts.

CANNOT LOG IN

Some users are experiencing an inability to log in to any user accounts after installing Security Update 2007-008.

One reader writes: "I'm having major problems after applying the security update onto my PowerBook G4 (1GHz) running OS X 10.4.11. The installation took about 20 minutes, which was odd in itself. Upon restarting, again, it was slow, and now when I get to the login screen, the passwords don't work for any of the users on the machine, and it hangs on shutting down/restarting. Everything is there on the hard drive. I'm just in the process of trying to copy everything off to go for the clean-install route. It's a pain, but I hope it works."

Apple's Knowledge Base document TS1543, which suggests starting in single-user mode and deleting the AuthenticationAuthority file, may prove helpful in this situation.

WIRELESS INTERNET SLOW

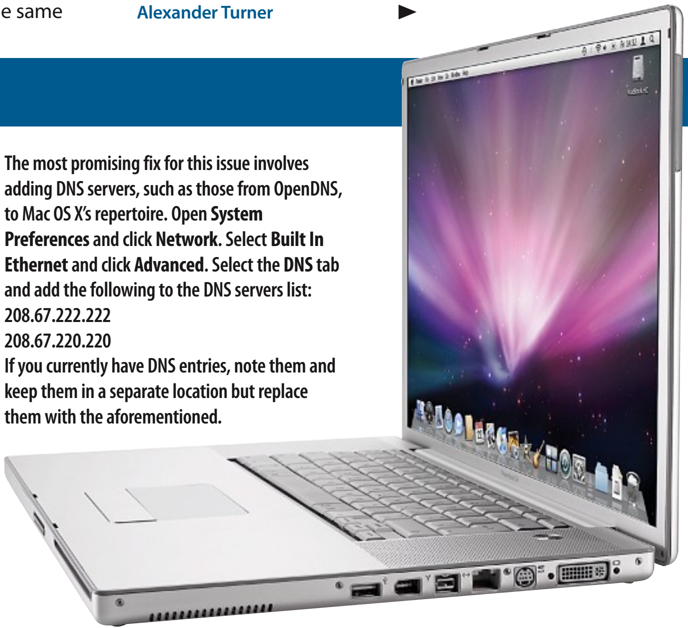
Some users have reported slow wireless internet access after applying Security Update 2007-008.

The most promising fix for this issue involves adding DNS servers, such as those from OpenDNS, to Mac OS X's repertoire. Open **System Preferences** and click **Network**. Select **Built In Ethernet** and click **Advanced**. Select the **DNS** tab and add the following to the DNS servers list:

208.67.222.222

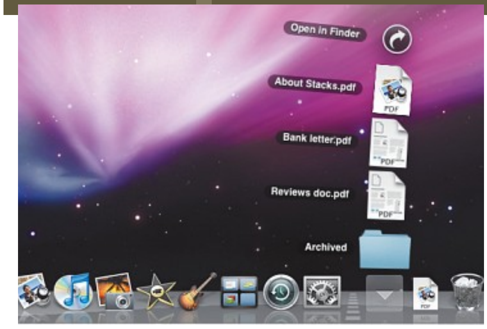
208.67.220.220

If you currently have DNS entries, note them and keep them in a separate location but replace them with the aforementioned.

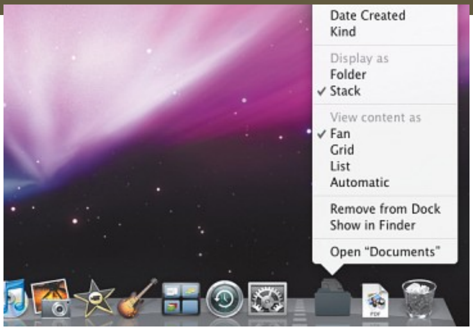


➔

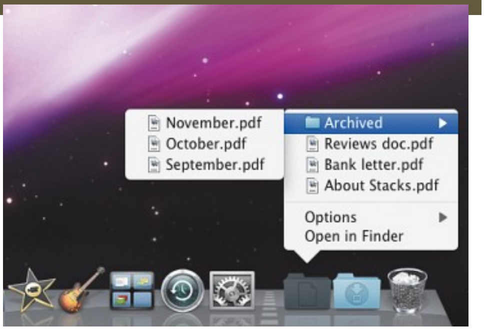
STEP BY STEP | Get more from Dock Stacks



01 Stacks have been one of Leopard's most controversial features. By default, folders dropped on the Dock expand as a fan or grid, depending on how many items are within. In the Dock, they show a folder's content, rather than the folder itself (which in practice means an icon of the first item in the folder – not very useful).



02 By right- or ⌘-clicking a Stack, you gain access to a surprising number of display options, which are: **Sort by** (which determines the sort order of items within the Stack), **Display as** (to change the way a Stack is shown in the Dock) and **View content as** (to define how an expanded Stack is shown).



03 By setting **Display as** to **Folder**, a stack shows its folder icon, rather than its contents (like on pre-Leopard Docks), and setting **View content as** to **List** brings back highly useful hierarchical menus to the Dock. Note that to take advantage of these features, you must be running Mac OS X 10.5.2 or higher.

QUICK TIP

Address Book business

If you use the Business widget to look up telephone numbers in the yellow pages, you can add a company to *Address Book* by clicking the + sign to the left of the address.

A I suspect that you're using a symbol font as a way of inputting Greek characters. These are fine for a brief Greek interlude here or a bit of algebra there, but you can't use them as a regular font because the characters aren't mapped to the correct letters. If you read a Greek document and try displaying it in a symbol font, you might get some Greek characters mixed in with the other weird runes, but it will be pure coincidence if they correspond to the original text's letters.

What you need instead is a proper Unicode Greek font. You can find any number of these online, designed mostly with Biblical scholars in mind. Try **www.ntgateway.com/greek/fonts.htm,** for instance.

MAKING A DIRECTOR'S CUT MOVIE

Q I'm in the process of making a movie of photos I've taken to give to my family. I would like them to have two options when they watch it. First, to watch it as a movie, with the music I have put in the background. Second, to watch it with a 'director's commentary', where I can give a running commentary throughout the entire movie. I'm making it in *iMovie*, moving it to *GarageBand* to add chapter markers, then to *iDVD* to burn it. Is there a way to add this commentary as a track that can be turned on and off, in the process of using the three programs?

Blair Wilgus

A *iDVD* won't let you create multiple audio tracks for the same video. If you want to do this you'll need *DVD Studio Pro*, which is part of the *Final Cut Studio 2* suite. Since this costs £849 to buy, you may rightly consider that an excessively large sledgehammer for this particular nut. An alternative, if your slideshow running time is short enough, would be to simply create two complete versions of the same slideshow; one with the music and one with the commentary. You could then structure your DVD menu so that it looked like you were just selecting the audio track. You can put up to 90 minutes of video on a DVD with *iDVD* so you could do this with a slideshow of up to 45 minutes. I sincerely hope you aren't expecting anyone to sit through a photo slideshow any longer than that!

PARALLEL PRINTING ON MAC AND PC

Q I run Leopard, being a Mac convert. I also run *Parallels* to utilise some of my Windows XP software. One major problem is that I'm unable to print from Windows to a Canon MP610 printer. The printer runs with no problems on the iMac. I've tried adjusting device settings in *Parallels*, and switching on Share Printer from System Preferences. I even attempted installing the Canon drivers onto Windows. Am I missing something?

Paul Taylor

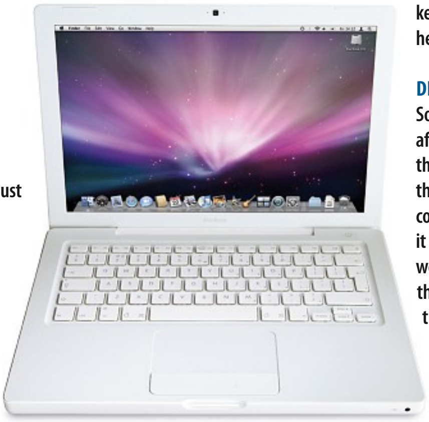
Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

Alternatively, some users have found that turning off all of equipment, waiting a few minutes, then turning it all back on results in elimination of the network lag.

CANNOT ADJUST VOLUME

One MacFixIt reader writes: "After installing Security Update 2007-008, I can no longer adjust the system volume. Checking the System Preferences > Sound gives me 'No output devices found' in the Output tab."

Some users have reported that resetting the PRAM has worked to resolve this issue. To do this, shut down your Mac, then start it back up while immediately holding the following keys: ⌘+⌥+[P]+[R]. Hold the keys down until the computer restarts and you hear the startup sound for the third time.



DISPLAY DISTORTION

Some users report issues with display distortion after the update. One MacFixIt reader reports that corrupt NVRAM may be involved: "I installed the security update last night and turned my computer off. When I started it up this morning it worked for a few minutes before the display went crazy. I did a hardware test and it seems the VRAM has an error – not sure if it's related to the update, but it seems fishy."

PRAM resets, as indicated in the section earlier, also reset NVRAM, and may be effective for this issue.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

A You are definitely missing something and it's called *Bonjour*. This is a service discovery protocol that's built-in to OS X (at least from 10.2 onwards). It used to be called *Rendezvous* but changed its name for no terribly good reason. When you opt to share your printer in *Parallels*' preferences, it's shared as a network resource, but you need to use *Bonjour* to actually *find* this resource. *Bonjour* isn't built into Windows but you can download it from **www.apple.com/support/downloads/bonjourforwindows.html**. You need to download and install it from within the Windows Virtual Machine (VM). After that, you can start the *Bonjour Printer Wizard* (again from Windows). Your Canon should be listed there and you can then choose a printer driver for it. Since you've installed the MP610 driver for Windows, it should also be listed there (otherwise the Generic/PostScript driver is your best bet). Click **Finish** to close the wizard and Windows printing should now be available to you.

Entourage forces you to close all open *Office* programs when switching email identities.

KEEPING IT ALL IN SYNC

Q I recently purchased my first Mac, a 24-inch iMac, and it's simply amazing; so good, in fact, that I'm considering buying a MacBook as I need to be able to work away from home, too. This is where I need your help: I want to be able to keep both machines totally in sync, and have all my music, documents and movies on both machines. I've thought about getting MobileMe but I'm not sure it's the ideal solution, as I would also like a *Time Machine* backup to keep everything safe. Just working from iDisk wouldn't provide me with that. Is there anything you can recommend for my needs?

Matt Dalby

A You can't rely on a single solution to both these problems. MobileMe isn't really a backup solution (other than just for a few critical documents) any more than *Time Machine* is a data synchronisation tool. *Time Machine* works best as a 'set and forget' incremental backup tool. What you can do is use Time Capsule to back up the iMac and MacBook on the same device via WiFi, rather than going to the effort of putting an external disk on each machine.

SPLIT IDENTITIES WHEN USING OFFICE

Q Earlier this year I bought a 2.4GHz iMac. I also bought and loaded the MS *Office* suite for Mac onto it. Since using the *Entourage* email application as my main mail system, I've noticed that if I have *Word* open and try to switch identities in *Entourage* I get an annoying message: 'To switch identities, quit Microsoft Messenger and all Microsoft Office programs and then restart Microsoft Entourage'. Is there a way around this problem?

Dave Cox

A I've never really understood the point of email identities. In *Entourage*, this 'feature' is really just a relic of OS 9. A much better approach is simply to use different user names for OS X and enable fast user switching in System Preferences > Accounts. This will enable you to leave all your *Office* applications open and hop between different users in a trice. Better still, because the user account is system-wide, you can have separate documents, applications, desktop settings and so on. Any data you need to share between accounts is easily done via the public folder or by making folders shared. I hope that helps you! ●

The *Bonjour Printer Wizard* enables you to share your printer between operating systems.

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q Macs prefer HFS+, but does that mean a Windows PC can't read/write the files stored on a Mac? Say there's a FireWire external hard drive connected to the Mac and that drive is formatted as HFS+ and the Mac has Windows Sharing switched on – will the fact that the external drive is not formatted in FAT32 prevent the PC from using the files on it? It will only be accessing them via the Mac, of course, not directly. I'm a little confused about this. Any ideas?
SwissMac Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 5699 Location: Switzerland

A I've never tried it but I would imagine that the Mac would handle the translation for the PC to see the drive.
Future-Echoes Joined: 21 Jun 2003 Posts: 5662 Location: Essex

A Correct. The disk format makes no difference to the network file protocol used to communicate between machines.
FocusGhia Joined: 07 May 2003 Posts: 4337 Location: London

Q I've just been tidying up my Desktop and accidentally deleted the **Downloads** folder from the Dock. I can't find a way of getting it back – I'm sure this is simple but I'm stuck. Can anyone help?
ravey1981 Joined: 20 May 200 Posts: 95 Location: North Yorkshire

A Yes! Open your **Home** folder in *Finder* and then drag the **Downloads** folder to the Dock.
shanespencer Joined: 06 Jun 2006 Posts: 572

Q I can take both photos and short videos with my Casio Exilim camera and transfer them to my *iPhoto* program on my MacBook, as well as play both on my MacBook (Leopard 10.5.5). I can also transfer whatever photos I want to my iPhone 3G from my MacBook. What I can't seem to do is to transfer my videos (10 seconds max) from my MacBook to my iPhone, although I can play YouTube videos on my iPhone.

Can anyone with any simple ideas help me, if possible?
Enoch Joined: 15 Jun 2007 Posts: 143 Location: London

A They need to be MP4 format. Try *VisualHub* or *iSquint* to convert them.
Dave Braine Joined: 07 Jan 2006 Posts: 1204 Location: Warrington

Q I am trying to sync my Google Contacts with my Apple addresses (which will sync with Mobile Me - much preferred .Mac). It should be possible to automatically sync them by ticking **Synchronize with Google** but preferences within *Address Book* only include the option to synchronise with MobileMe, Exchange and Yahoo!. I am running OS X 10.5.5
wint Joined: 26 Feb 2008 Posts: 11

A I'm afraid that the option to sync with Google is only available if you have an iPhone. Otherwise you are limited to .Mac, Exchange and Yahoo!
ChrisWad Joined: 13 Nov 2008 Posts: 8

Join our forum at **http://forum.macformat.co.uk**

.net MAGAZINE AWARDS_ 2008

Discover the best of the web as .net reveals this year's winners and losers

With all the votes now counted and verified, it's time to announce the web's hottest talent of 2008. In this special issue we interview all the winners, as they reveal how they got to the top, and what it takes to stay there!

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NOMINEES!

- **Eco Zoo**
- Radiohead's In Rainbows
- **Weezer, Pork and Bean**
- Rick Astley
- **Last.fm**
- Diggnation
- **The Dark Knight**
- Facebook
- **BBC iPlayer**
- Gmail
- **Flickr**
- Firefox 3

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www.thenetawards.com

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and all good newsagents

Fingers crossed it won't be too long before we have a brand new *MacFormat* Reviews Editor to welcome you to this section, but until then you have the pleasure of my smiling visage to tell you what products we have in for testing.

This month you'll find there are plenty of treats to keep you entertained. We're starting off with a look at a great new digital camera from Nikon, a fantastic speaker setup from Logitech and the LaCie 4big Quadra, which is a monster of a backup system, offering 4TB of space, with a price tag to match.

In software this month we've got a close look at the excellent new *OpenOffice.org 3*, as well as the new version of Filemaker's groundbreaking database application, *Bento 2*.

We round things off with our Group Test of word processing packages. Does Apple's *Pages* offer the best solution to Mac users? Find out on page 104.

Nikon Coolpix P6000 DSLR **p82**

OpenOffice.org 3 office suite **p90**

Group Test: word processors **p104**

Reviewed this issue…

HARDWARE

Nikon Coolpix P6000 82
Amacom exSecure 160GB 83
Logitech Z-5 83
MAXPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless USB 2.0 Stick Adapter & Extension Cradle 84
MAXPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless Router 84
Logitech Pure-Fi Anytime 85
Knomo Serra Trolley 86
Gear4 ProControl AV 86
LaCie 4big Quadra 87
iBlock 88
Case Logic True Sport nano (4th Gen) Armband 88
OZC Trifecta 88
Veho VMS-001 88

SOFTWARE

OpenOffice.org 3 90
Marketcircle Inc. Billings 3.0.3 92
Filemaker Bento 2 93
Yuuguu 94
equinux CoverScout 3 94
Britannica 2009 Ultimate Edition 95
Flock 2.0 96
Ohanaware Funtastic Photos 96

GROUP TEST

Word processors 104

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Our star ratings

★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★☆☆☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

GPS-ENABLED DIGITAL BRIDGE CAMERA

Nikon Coolpix P6000

£339 Nikon's flagship compact is packed with innovative features, though it's far from refined

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Nikon
www.nikon.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484506

KEY SPECS

Resolution: 13.5 megapixels **Focal length:** 4x Optical (28-112mm) Image Stabilised **LCD:** 2.7-inch, 230,000 pixels **Dimensions:** 107x65.5x42mm

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Lens quality
- ⊕ Rock-solid construction
- ⊖ Weak GPS
- ⊖ Limited networking capability
- ⊖ Noisy at higher ISOs
- ⊖ Sluggish operation

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A solidly-constructed DSLR-compact hybrid, but its numerous flaws make it difficult to recommend."

Nikon
COOLPIX P6000
NIKKOR 4X OPTICAL ZOOM ED VR
6-24mm
1:2.7-5.9

Despite the compact ergonomics of the P6000, it's faithful to the SLR style.

The P6000 is Nikon's new flagship compact, showcasing the latest technologies and offering what the company hopes to be a serious alternative to lugging around a digital SLR camera. Certainly, with an MSRP of over £50 more expensive than its D60 digital SLR, Nikon seems to be sure that the P6000 aspires to more than its Coolpix moniker.

Not a looker

Its brick-like shell, firm buttons and heavy-duty hand grip isn't going to win any design awards, but it's designed for longevity in the hands of a semi-pro, not looks. It shares the same impeccably constructed magnesium alloy shell as Nikon's highest-end professional camera bodies. The mode selection wheel, optical viewfinder and chunky jog dials could almost be lifted directly from a D60. Even the camera's firmware is based on Nikon's DSLR Picture Control System. In short, users of Nikon's digital SLR bodies will be right at home, and anyone choosing the P6000 as a 'way in' to SLR photography will find knowledge transfer very easy when they decide to move to a fully-fledged SLR camera.

In-camera geotagging looks set to be the 'next big thing', doing away with the time-consuming process of manually pinning your shots to a virtual map. The inclusion of a GPS receiver, able to pinpoint your location to within a few feet, is hailed as the P6000's finest achievement. In reality, its inclusion seems to be all but a flaky tech demo of what might be realisable in the future. The receiver itself is pitifully weak, and even in open, interference-free areas it seemed to need at least five minutes to recognise even a single satellite, rendering it entirely useless for quick snaps. In urban areas with nearby buildings and sources of interference, it never achieved a satellite lock at all, leaving our images location-less.

> "The mode selection wheel, optical viewfinder and chunky dials could almost be lifted directly from a D60"

Perhaps the quirkiest addition to the camera is its Ethernet socket, providing a quick way to back up your shots online. Ethernet's an odd choice; a WiFi implementation would have allowed users to take advantage of free hotspots, and any possible speed increase a wired connection might offer is hampered by low broadband upload speeds. In our tests over a 2.5Mb/sec upstream connection, a 200MB mixture of JPEG and RAW shots took nearly an hour to transfer – suggesting that backing up an 8GB SD card may prove entirely unfeasible.

Optically, the P6000 doesn't disappoint. The ability to control depth of field, and consequently the quality of background blur, is extremely impressive for such a small optic. Macro mode is a highlight, as is the wide view at 28mm. Sadly, the P6000's 13.5-megapixel sensor struggles to do justice to the sharp lens. Despite a physically larger sensor than most compacts, such a tight packing of pixels has resulted in issues with chroma noise, making anything higher than ISO 400 only suitable for emergency use. ISO 6400 is, frankly, a ludicrous inclusion.

The need for speed

Finally, there's the speed issue; it's simply no match for a DSLR in terms of responsiveness. Focusing is cumbersome, and in low light rarely achieves an accurate focus lock. Manual mode is let down by clunky navigation, requiring multiple button presses to adjust basic settings. Switching to Nikon's new NRW raw image format increases write times significantly, resulting in a wait of around ten seconds between shots.

Sadly, these issues all serve as nails in the P6000's coffin – Nikon has concentrated far too much on high technology and neglected the most basic of requirements in the process. All its target audience wants is a low-noise, responsive compact that comes close to a DSLR in image quality yet slips neatly in a jacket pocket. If the P6000 is Nikon's attempt to answer this call, it's got a fair way to go yet.

James De Vile

The Nikon P6000's controls bear a striking resemblance to the D60.

Fn
AF
OK
MF
MENU
Nikon

SECURE PORTABLE HARD DISK

Amacom ezSecure 160GB

£110 Put your data behind a secure PIN – are you listening, government contractors?

It's not a particularly prepossessing bit of kit, but the Amacom ezSecure keeps your data safe.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Amacom
www.originstorage.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484485

KEY SPECS

PIN: up to 12 digits **Capacity:** 160GB (250GB and 320GB available) **Interface:** USB 2.0 **Compatibility:** Mac and PC

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Easy to use
- + Secures your data…
- + …even if you remove the drive
- − Expensive
- − A little clunky
- − Bulky

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"If speed isn't much of an issue but security is paramount, you could do a lot worse."

High-profile data losses from government contractors have reminded us all that keeping confidential data secure – especially when it's stored on a easily-lost external hard disk or optical disc – is vital.

It's not just about making access to that data difficult; there's no point in having a hard disk enclosure that requires, say, the correct fingerprint before it mounts if the data itself on the hard disk is unencrypted. Remove the hard disk, put it in a new enclosure, and you've circumvented the 'security'.

Which is why we like the ezSecure from Amacom. Yes, it's bulky for a portable hard disk, and yes, it's very expensive for the capacities offered – 160GB, 250GB and 320GB – compared to vanilla portable storage devices, but it's still a welcome product. Not only will it refuse to mount until you have correctly entered the PIN you specify on the integrated LCD touchscreen – it can be up to 12 digits long, offering 1,000,000,000,000 possible variations – but if you undo the eight screws that hold the case together and extract the hard disk, it won't mount when you put it in a new enclosure.

But while we like the technology that's at work here, we're less impressed with the fit and finish. The chassis is pretty solid, but the touchscreen feels a little delicate; worse, the blue power light is so bright and strong that if you're trying to unlock the drive in dim light, bleed from the LED makes the screen very difficult to read.

Its cable splits into two USB connections, though testing it with a MacBook proved that it provided sufficient power to operate the drive even with a single connection plugged in.

Performance is mediocre, but you're unlikely to buy this drive if speed is your main concern. If you don't need to secure your data, there are cheaper, faster hard disks you could buy, but we like the balance of security and convenience offered here.
Christopher Phin

USB POWERED STEREO SPEAKER SYSTEM

Logitech Z-5

£47 Does there have to be a sub in substantial sound?

Granted, they won't rock the house, but they're sufficient for desktop usage nonetheless.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Logitech
www.logitech.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484466

KEY SPECS

Includes: wireless remote with battery, USB cable, audio extension cable

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Lightweight
- + Stylish
- + No power brick
- − Flimsy bass
- − Awkward acoustics
- − Limited remote control

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"If you've not got the space for a subwoofer, the Z-5 presents a highly passable alternative."

The Z-5's unique selling point is its omni-directional cabinet design, the idea being that if you sit the speakers on a table in the centre of a room, the same sound can be enjoyed from any point on their circumference. Audio emitted backwards will also reflect off walls to create a more room-filling sound.

While we're certainly willing to entertain this notion, the cynical physicist in us worries that placement too near a wall may increase the chance of phase cancellation playing havoc with the stereo image. That said, in tests we struggled to hear anything other than what we'd expect from standard stereo speakers. Sound quality isn't superb – the flabby, hollow bass won't give any subwoofer a run for its money, and things start to fall apart at higher volumes, with distortion and clipping appearing – harsh, digital noise, not the warm analogue kind. That said, it's more than we might have expected from such lightweight stereo speakers; you're paying for a delicate compromise of power, portability and audio performance here.

An iPhone-esque remote control is included, though as omni-directional as the speakers themselves may be, it only functions reliably when aimed straight-on.

One of the main lures of the Z-5 is its ease of USB power; unlike the speakers' big brother, the Z-10, no mains power is required. This does limit their performance somewhat; at only 2 watts it's likely that all but the most intimate of parties will remain un-rocked. Sit them aside your MacBook, however, and you'll rarely need to turn the volume past half way.

While music fidelity is hit and miss, movies are more forgiving – a situation that's acceptable at this price.
Christopher Phin

802.11n/g/b STICK

MAXPower Wireless USB 2.0 Stick Adaptor

£42 The ultimate upgrade for older Macs to bring your G4 up to speed

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Newer Technology
www.newertech.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484552

KEY SPECS

IEEE draft 802.11n, 802.11b/g, Ralink RT2870 chipset, activity LED

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Neat, unassuming design
⊕ USB extender included
⊕ Good speed and range
⊕ A lifeline for old Macs
⊖ Not plug and play
⊖ Somewhat clunky software

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"If you don't have the luxury of a built-in AirPort card, this is the next best thing."

Wireless n hasn't been officially ratified within the industry, but it has, through years of tentative release, just about become set in stone. If ever there were a time to upgrade, it's now. That said, it's worth pointing out that you might not even need a specific USB stick to take advantage of Wireless n's increased connection speeds: if you've got an Intel Mac, every model except for the 1.83GHz 17-inch iMac is natively compatible, although you'll need to pay Apple a couple of pounds to unlock the functionality. Users of older Macs will benefit most, though; buying this device gives your Mac compatibility with just about every wireless router in the world, and drivers are included for Panther onwards, meaning you won't miss out if you don't have the latest edition of OS X.

Refreshingly, Newer Technology seems to have really taken the Mac to heart. The manual in the box gives comprehensive Mac instructions, though note that you'll have to dig around your system a little to get everything set up correctly. Much of this complexity can be blamed on the fact that this isn't directly AirPort-compatible, necessitating a separate wireless utility which you'll need to use to manage your connections. Sadly, this isn't particularly friendly: at different times we had trouble getting OS X to recognise that the USB stick was plugged in, the custom software doesn't seem to save your network password, and aesthetically it doesn't fit in too well, not even using Aqua buttons.

That said, once the connection was up and running it proved fast and reliable, so the upgrade might be worth a little extra clunkiness. AirPort compatibility isn't all it's cracked up to be anyway, so there's little love lost. As it is, this is a great solution for increasing speed and range, although don't expect to get much more out of your internet connection; even wireless g runs faster than the majority of UK ISPs.

Alex Cox

MAXPower
MAXPower

The 802.11n/g/b Wireless USB 2.0 Stick Adaptor is ideal if you don't have AirPort built in.

A WIRELESS ROUTER WITH POWER

MAXPower 802.11n/g/b Wireless Router

$68 (£44) It's time to upgrade that low-grade router your ISP gave you

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Newer Technology
www.newertech.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484572

KEY SPECS

IEEE draft 802.11n, 802.11b/g, 802.3, 802.3u, 4x LAN ports, 1x WAN port, Access Point mode

FOR AND AGAINST

⊕ Neat, tidy package
⊕ Excellent signal strength
⊕ Easy to use firmware
⊕ Mac-friendly instructions
⊕ Easy access point conversion
⊖ No USB expansion ports

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Not the most complicated router, but it ticks all the efficiency boxes with aplomb."

Let's start by saying that this is a fine piece of kit. The web interface is, if not the best we've seen, finer than the majority of interfaces proffered by independent router manufacturers. Setup is entirely straightforward, and the multicolour LEDs mean you can get a handle on potential problems before even connecting. Hooking up to an Ethernet-based modem is easy, although you're somewhat stuck if you're using a USB-based ADSL modem since the MaxPower router lacks the USB ports that are becoming common on today's more advanced devices. If your ISP is forcing you to use a combined modem-router, there's also an external switch that enables you to use this as an access point, effectively upgrading your existing kit to wireless n standards.

But who needs expandability if all you're after is speed? Upgrading from a standard wireless g router, using the built-in AirPort card of a first-gen 17-inch Intel iMac shaved a little time from our average packet round-trip (from 2.6ms down to 2.0ms), making this a viable upgrade even if you're not intending to jump to n just yet. Adding the Max Power USB stick (reviewed above) dropped the average to 1.4ms, which is extremely impressive. In real terms, the time taken to copy a 700MB file to an Ethernet-connected Windows share dropped by a good three minutes – if you're sick of the sluggishness of wireless data transfer, wireless n really is a breath of fresh air. It won't magically increase the speed of your internet connection, though.

It's great for range, as well; using this and its associated USB stick, we got an average of around 93% signal strength even through a floor and two solid walls, a spot where our AirPort card manages only three bars. This is a variable which depends on the kit being used, however – switching back to our built-in AirPort card caused the signal strength to drop significantly. You really need wireless n kit on both ends to benefit from the standard most.

Alex Cox

Power
Security
Wireless
Router
Diag
Internet
LAN
MAXPower

The power of 'n' has come of age – as long as you have it at both ends of the network.

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT This Week
14:30
Logitech

iPOD ALARM CLOCK DOCK

Logitech Pure-Fi Anytime

£67 How about a little Brian May or Edward Elgar to rouse you from your slumber?

Alarm clock radios – and their made-for-iPod descendents – have always held a strongly diametric level of appeal. For some, a varying pattern of sound waves each morning is a precursor to a missed train, while others are happy to banish the beep and rely on Survivor's *Eye of the Tiger* to kick-start their day. If you fall into the latter category, the Pure-Fi Anytime might just be your new favourite toy.

Logitech entered the alarm clock market last year with the impressive Pure-Fi Dream, though its £170 MSRP afforded it limited appeal. The Anytime serves as its smaller, restrained sibling, focusing on waking you up rather than affective acoustics, while still providing much of the well-realised alarm functionality that made the Dream so appealing.

KEY SPECS

Motion-activated controls
Dual alarms

Dual alarms, for example, will entice anyone who gets up at a different time to their partner – and Logitech has gone one better than a basic implementation. Creating bespoke playlists named **Alarm 1** and **Alarm 2** ensure that no argument over early-morning music taste occurs, and even if you forget to set your ideal soundtrack before you hit the sack, a gentle fade-in ensures you won't be jarred awake.

Forget, also, drowsy snooze-button fumbling – thanks to an in-built motion sensor, waving in the dock's general direction will silence the alarm clock for a pre-determined interval. This also illuminates the dock's backlit control buttons, including a manual snooze button – though they're fairly hard to push when lying beside the unit and don't provide much tactile feedback. The illuminations it sports are bright enough to be seen in daylight, yet subtle enough not to influence your bedroom's ambient light level.

As a speaker dock, audio quality isn't very inspiring. Unlike dedicated iPod speakers that put fidelity foremost, the Pure-Fi Anytime is designed primarily as a timepiece. We're not inclined to penalise its bass deficiency too heavily; after the initial few mornings' excitement has worn off, you'll rarely get further than ten seconds into any one song before dismissing it with a disgruntled flail. Our main issue is how uni-directional the speakers are; unless the unit faces you directly, what treble there is simply disappears.

In the box there's an AM loop antenna, various dock adaptors and a remote control, though unless you prefer to sleep ten feet away from any electrical equipment the latter is likely to see only occasional action. The screwdriver-accessed 9v backup battery may be a little clumsy, but it does mean that you won't miss your alarm in the event of a power failure during the night.

James De Vile

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Logitech
www.logitech.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484590

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Multiple alarms/playlists
- + Reliable alarm functionality
- + Motion sensor
- + Illumination doesn't light room
- − Uni-directional sound
- − Stiff buttons

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's not going to replace your hi-fi, but as an alarm clock it's a superb choice."

WOMAN'S LUXURY LAPTOP TROLLEY BAG

Knomo Serra

£175 A little bit of luxury – could this be the perfect businesswoman's laptop bag?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Knomo
www.knomobags.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484644

KEY SPECS

Supports: laptops up to 15-inch (maximum fit 30x39x3cm) **Outer dimensions:** 36x44x15cm Weight 2.7kg

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Beautiful
- + Attention to detail
- + No compromise on practicality
- + Useful size
- + Waterproof pockets
- – Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★½

"The perfect bag at the perfect size. Only the price is anything other than perfect."

Laptop bags, as a rule, are staunchly practical things, with all the aesthetic appeal of Windows 3.1. One of the reasons we love Knomo's bags, therefore, is that they're utterly beautiful without compromising on practicality. Our other good reason for loving the company is that it's one of very few in the world that make laptop bags for women as well as men.

We picked this trolley case from Knomo's Autumn/Winter collection, and we think it's the perfect bag for a professional woman. It can take a 15.4-inch MacBook Pro and protects it from knocks; a series of padded cells along the bottom of the laptop sleeve provide extra defence if the case is dumped hard on the floor.

The quilted black exterior is both smart and chic, and the raspberry-pink lining inside looks lovely. It's not just the look of the thing that impresses, however. The retractable handle – which completely disappears into a reinforced, zippable section at the rear of the case – is very solidly built, with superb leather detailing on the handle and a chunky button you have to press to make it collapse.

Throughout, high style mixes with a scrupulous attention to real-world usage. The space to either side of the retractable handle, for example – usually wasted in such bags – is used to provide two waterproof, protected pockets, perfect for a wet mini umbrella or dirty shoes. There are pockets and pouches galore, all in intelligent places, and the whole thing weighs only 2.7kg – that's only just heavier than a MacBook Pro. The retractable handle may prove a little short for very tall folks, but the detailing is superb – a little strap holds the two leather handles together at the top of the case, for example.

The size is ideal too; it's not too bulky, but there's easily space to hold a change of clothes for an overnight business trip. It's technically 40mm too deep for Easyjet's hand baggage restrictions, but you could probably get away with it because it's smaller in other dimensions.

It's a lot of money, but it's worth treating yourself to.
Christopher Phin

With room not just for your laptop and papers but even for a change of clothes, the Serra is a fantastic choice.

iPOD DOCK

Gear4 ProControl AV

£50 Play music, photos and movies from your iPod on your TV or home stereo

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Gear4
www.gear4.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/485676

KEY SPECS

Comes with: Remote control, AC adapter, AV cable, SCART adapter, five iPod docking adapters, USB sync cable

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Sturdy build quality
- + Connects with a good range of iPods
- + Has all the leads you need
- + Five Universal Dock standard adapters
- + Syncs and charges as well
- – Not properly iPhone compatible

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great, no-nonsense way of connecting your iPod to your stereo or television."

The Gear4 ProControl AV is a simple iPod dock that enables you to connect your iPod to your TV or home stereo and also sync it with your Mac while charging the iPod. It comes with a remote control and all the cables you need in the box, including a handy SCART adapter. You get enough plastic bezels (called Universal Dock Adapters) in the box to deal with connecting most types of iPods too, so you can be sure your iPod will sit nicely in the dock, and because it uses the Universal Dock standard, you can be sure of future iPod compatibility.

We tested the ProControl with the new iPod nano fourth generation and the iPod touch second generation, and it worked extremely well. Being able to watch your iPod videos on your TV is a lot of fun, and connecting your iPod to a stereo is a useful feature that many people are looking for. It certainly saves you from buying a whole new stereo system that's iPod compatible.

We can't fault the ProControl really, it does exactly what it promises. The real issue is how the Gear4 model differs from Apple's own Universal Dock. In fact it doesn't: with Apple's Universal Dock you also get an Apple Remote and the ability to charge, sync and connect to your TV and stereo. Gear4's remote has a lot more buttons on it, such as a useful shuffle button and a mute button, and you also get all the leads you need in the box, which you don't with the Apple product – you'd need to buy them separately.

But the real difference is the price. If you want to buy Apple's Universal Dock (£29) and Apple's Composite AV Cable (£29) you've just spent almost £60, whereas Gear4's ProControl will only set you back £50. If you're looking for a way to save money and don't mind that your dock doesn't come in Apple white then the ProControl AV could be just what you're looking for.
Graham Barlow

The ProControl AV's dark styling suits the iPod touch rather nicely.

Mac FORMAT
This Week
All your Apple needs
gear4

HIGH-SPEED LOCAL STORAGE DEVICE

LaCie 4big Quadra 4TB

£1,010 LaCie's chunky DAS is designed to meet the balance of speed and security you require

KEY SPECS

Interface: eSATA 3Gb/sec, FireWire 800, FireWire 400, Hi-Speed USB 2.0
Rotational Speed (rpm): 7200rpm
Cache: 4x16MB or greater
Dimensions (WxHxD): 222x180x175mm
Weight: 7.1 kg

LaCie doesn't waste time with elaborate naming conventions. The 4big is exactly that – a big metal cube containing four hard drives. The Quadra part denotes its four connectivity options – USB, FireWire 400, FireWire 800 and, most notably, eSATA, offering up to 3Gb/sec data transfer speeds. Apple has yet to embrace eSATA, so in order to make use of this new high-speed transfer protocol you'll need to factor an expansion card into your budget. Any Pro-range Mac is good to go, with either ExpressCard/34 or PCI-E available for around £40.

While its purpose may be mundane, this isn't a unit designed to be tucked away out of sight; its sleek aluminium shell complements your Apple kit beautifully. Airflow is reassuringly well thought out, considering the valuable payload. The fans inside are temperature controlled, only audible during intense disk operations.

By default, the 4big is configured as a RAID 0 device, writing data evenly over all four disks. As a result, it's capable of an uncached, 256k block random write at an impressive 132MB/sec over eSATA. It's certainly fast, but it's also a very, very bad idea if you're looking to store any important data on the device. While you get the capacity you've paid for, if a single disk fails you lose everything.

The most useful of the seven RAID modes the 4big offers is RAID 10 – that's a nested level containing a stripe (RAID 0) of two mirrors (RAID 1) – although half the 4big's capacity is sacrificed as a mirror. This creates a single mountable drive in which up to two of the four physical disks can fail without data loss occurring. Of course, in this mode you lose the high transfer speed – the same uncached write under RAID 10 completed at 70MB/sec, almost half the speed of RAID 0, although still fast enough to handle real-time encoding of uncompressed HD video.

Despite this, it's still hard to get over how expensive the 4big is. Even with the inflated drive prices taken into account, the base unit is still over £300 more than its obvious rival, Data Robotics' Drobo, filled with four 1TB drives. And unlike the Drobo's ability to expand as your needs grow, here you're investing in a set capacity – and as soon as you start dividing it by two, the 4big loses its 'bottomless pit' image. What it's far more suited for is temporary storage – in RAID 0 it's fast enough to handle multiple HD video and audio streams, making the 4big Quadra one of the speediest solutions available.

James De Vile

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer LaCie
www.lacie.com/uk/index.htm
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484618

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Beautifully constructed
- + Blindingly fast as single stripe
- + Multiple RAID modes
- + Extremely quiet
- − Poor security by default
- − Finite capacity

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Blisteringly quick, but data mirroring means speed and capacity are compromised."

iPOD SPEAKER

iBlock

£13 A LEGO brick that works as a speaker… Why?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer thumbsUp
www.thumbsupuk.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484845

VERDICT
★★☆☆☆

"It's novelty value only here, we're afraid."

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
Mac FORMAT
Week
MENU

The iBlock isn't an official, licensed LEGO product, but for all intents and purposes it looks like a LEGO brick to us. Featuring a docking connector for the iPod classic, nano, mini and touch, it's an active speaker that doesn't require any batteries. It certainly boosts the volume to a level that would annoy people on the bus, but as you'd expect from a plastic box, the sound is pretty dreadful. To be honest, it's rather painful to listen to.

Two of the knobs on the front of the brick function as volume buttons and work perfectly adequately. We tested it with the new fourth generation iPod nano and it worked fine, but we couldn't get any results from the new second generation iPod touch, but that has a built-in speaker anyway, so the test was academic.

On the whole we're impressed with the volume and the retro, novelty value of the styling, but we can't imagine why anyone would want to listen to an iPod through something that sounds like this, even if it doesn't need any batteries.

Graham Barlow

FOURTH GENERATION iPOD NANO ARMBAND

True Sport nano Armband

$20 (£13) Keep your iPod safe when jogging

With the popularity of the Nike + Sport Kit (see page 22) on the increase, many manufacturers have jumped on the fitness bandwagon and produced their own iPod armbands. Some of them look flimsy and we wouldn't trust them to house our iPods safely while out jogging or in the gym (or even doing the housework), but Case Logic hasn't done a bad job here. It's not expensive and certainly doesn't look it, but the iPod nano (fourth generation) compartment does provide a tight fit. There's even a secret pocket to hold your keys.

There's no way your iPod nano is going to slip out of this comfortable-to-wear case, but controlling the nano when it's strapped to your arm is a bit tricky, and the Click Wheel isn't as responsive when in the case. It's best to have a playlist set up for your whole workout time. Also, lock the controls or else it will be skipping tracks.

Niggles apart, the True Sport does what it should, and we felt our iPod was secure.

Michelle Camaibatiki

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Case Logic
www.caselogic.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484607

VERDICT
★★★★☆

"A few minor issues aside, our nano does feel secure in this strap."

MULTI-FORMAT FLASH STORAGE CARD

OCZ Trifecta 2GB

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£15 A card for your camera, phone and computer

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer OCZ
www.ocztechnology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/42941

VERDICT
★★★★★

"We'd like it to be more robust, but this flash storage device is highly innovative."

OCZ
TRIFECTA
66X
OCZ
microSD
2GB

With multi-gigabyte SD cards going for pocket money these days, companies have to work hard to make something that stands out. The approach that companies such as Lexmark and SanDisk take is to make very fast cards, providing fast, continuous burst rates for pro digital cameras.

OCZ has instead opted for features, and it's made us love this little card. The storage itself is courtesy of a 2GB microSD card – the format favoured by many modern phones, though of course the iPhone doesn't support any extra storage at all – which slots into the side of a regular SD-sized adaptor ready to be fitted into your camera. The really clever bit, though, is that the bottom half slips off to reveal a full-sized USB connection. Performance from this 66x card is nothing stellar – a peak of around 8MB/sec – but the convenience of having a card that will fit into your computer, camera, PDA and, possibly, mobile phone is not to be underestimated.

Christopher Phin

USB MICROSCOPE

Veho VMS-001 Microscope

£38 Less science, more cheap edutainment

There's no way you're going to use this USB microscope for diagnostic medicine, but it's cheap, educational fun for all the family.

The quality of the image sensor is a little poor – highlights can get blown out, and if you're using it in anything other than bright light, you can get some unpleasant noise in the images – but it does a sterling job of magnifying small objects. Coins, fabric and more take on a whole new dimension, and you should get a lot of use from such a cheap little device. The posable, removable stand works very well, and while the focussing ring can be hard to get exactly right, the build quality is generally good.

The bundled third-party webcam software is clunky and processor-intensive, however, and it can't turn on the built-in white LEDs; we couldn't even coax it into working via a *VMware Fusion* virtual PC.

Veho should have spent some time building its own Mac software rather than simply bundling something that's not designed specifically for the VMS-001.

Christopher Phin

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Veho
www.veho-uk.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484658

VERDICT
★★★½☆

"The bundled third-party software is a disappointment, but it's still good, cheap fun."

lynda.com™

CS4

University

THE WAIT IS OVER

Ps AE Pr ID Fl Ai Fw Dw Sb

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lynda.com®

OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY SUITE

OpenOffice.org 3.0

£FREE It's powerful, it's free, but is it as good as Microsoft Office?

CONTACT INFO

Developer OpenOffice.org
www.openoffice.org
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/380732

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger) or higher; Java 1.4 or newer; Intel processor; 512MB RAM; 400MB available disk space; 1024x768 or higher resolution screen with 16.7 million colours

FOR AND AGAINST

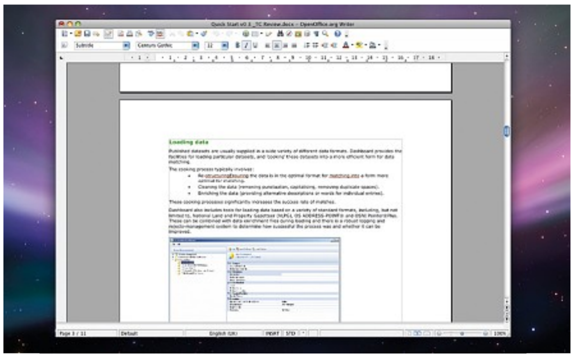
- + Free
- + OS X interface
- + Excellent range of features
- – Some features unintuitive
- – Still raw in places
- – Minor incompatibilities with *MS Office*

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's come a long way, and for this price it can't be beaten, but it's not quite as polished as Microsoft's age-old offering."

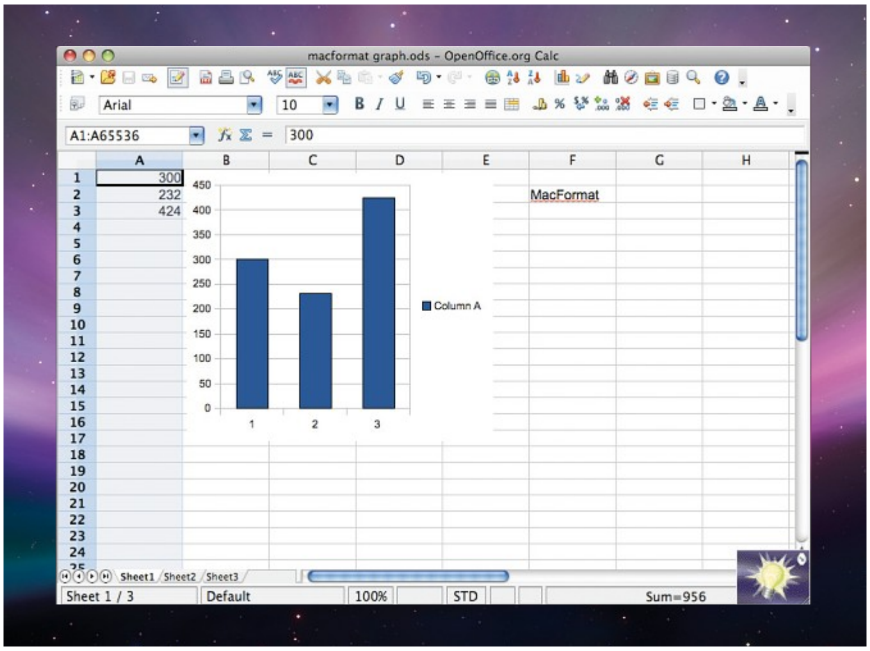
On the whole *OpenOffice.org* offers good compatibility with *MS Office* documents.



Whenever most people think of work software, they usually think of Microsoft's outstanding suite of programs collectively called *Office*: *Word*, *Excel*, *PowerPoint*, *Outlook* or *Entourage* and the numerous other bits and add-ons that come with them, depending on which exact version of *Office* you're using. There are plenty of versions of *Office* and they all cost money, ranging from roughly £100 to over £300, which isn't exactly cheap.

The clunkily named *OpenOffice.org*, though, is an extremely powerful alternative that seeks to liberate the world from *MS Office* in the same way that Linux has tried to rescue Windows users from their Microsoft shackles. It includes a word processor (*Writer*), spreadsheet application (*Calc*), and presentation software (*Impress*) as well as a database manager (*Base*) and graphics creation package (*Draw*). And it's all free: you can download it at no charge.

The trouble with free, particularly when it does so many things, is that it can be a bit rough-and-ready compared to the more expensive commercial alternatives, even when they have big backers like Sun and Novell.



OpenOffice.org's visual layout and components will strike many an *MS Office* veteran as helpfully similar in style and implementation.

Mac native

For a long time, *OpenOffice.org* has had that rough-and-ready problem, particularly on the Mac. In its earlier days, you had to compile it from source and patch it, making it inappropriate for virtually everyone but the most zealous and committed to getting things for free. Version two, available for Macs with PowerPC chips, required you to have the X11 windowing system installed, a relatively un-Mac-like world in itself.

Now version three – for Intel-equipped Macs only and not yet fully translated into British English from US English – takes OS X integration one step further. For the first time, *OpenOffice.org* is a proper program that installs and runs like any other Mac app: download the disk image, mount it, drag the app to your Applications folder, double-click it and you're there, using the familiar standard menus and keyboard shortcuts. It also ties into OS X's accessibility system, making it easier for people with disabilities to use.

The integration has come about through a migration by *OpenOffice.org* to Java. This makes *OpenOffice*'s OS X capabilities very similar but not identical to those of a native app. All the same, to anyone who's ever used *MS Office*, *OpenOffice.org* is a very familiar experience. Many of the menu options are the same: most of the same functions are there; there's a new 'Start Center' just like *Office*'s Project Gallery; even the wizards look similar and version 3.0 includes new icons that give toolbars even more of an *Office* feel, although they're nowhere near as polished. Indeed, *OpenOffice.org* tries to be as familiar as possible, although where it does differ from *Office*, invariably it picks a far less intuitive, more complicated, usually more Unix-like way of doing things. The two packages aren't identical, but the learning curve for those making the switch isn't as steep as with some apps.

> "For the first time, OpenOffice.org is a proper program that installs and runs like any other Mac application"

Open standards

But *OpenOffice.org* is also proud of, well, being open. Apart from being object-oriented, enabling you to embed presentations in word-processing documents or vice versa, for example, by default *OpenOffice.org* saves files in the international Open Document Format (ODF), which is used by numerous applications and governments. Version 3.0 includes support for the forthcoming 1.2 iteration of ODF. It can also import and save files in many formats, including the familiar *Office* DOC, XLS and PPT files, as well as, in version 3.0, the new *Office 2007/08* DOCX, XLSX and PPTX formats.

These filters aren't perfect, however. While considerable time and effort has been put into making Visual Basic

THE INTERFACE | Take a tour of OpenOffice.org

Office compatible

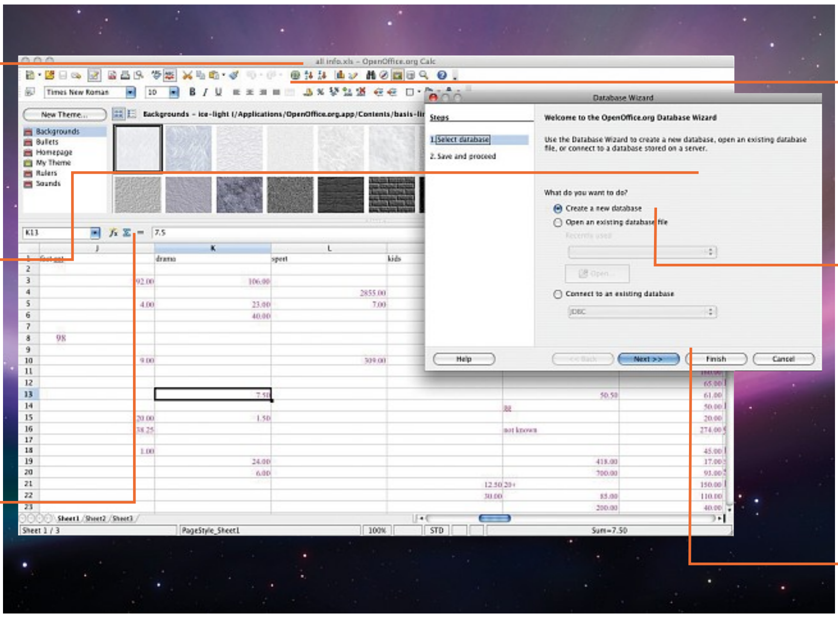
As well as its own ODF format files, *OpenOffice.org* can open all *MS Office* files, including the new 2007/08 format.

Wizards

OpenOffice.org uses *Office*-like wizards for such projects as creating templates, web pages, presentations and agendas.

Powerful functions

There are a host of powerful capabilities in *OpenOffice.org 3.0* familiar to *Office* users, as well as a useful drawing package.


all info.xls - OpenOffice.org Calc
Database Wizard
Steps
1. Select database
2. Save and proceed
Help
<< Back
Next >>
Finish
Cancel

Welcome to the OpenOffice.org Database Wizard

Use the Database Wizard to create a new database, open an existing database file, or connect to a database stored on a server.

What do you want to do?

● Create a new database

○ Open an existing database file

○ Connect to an existing database

New icons

As well as a new OS X interface, version 3.0 of *OpenOffice.org* includes new icons to make it look more like *MS Office*.

Databases

Unlike *Office* for Mac, *OpenOffice.org 3.0* includes a database manager and engine for designing tables, forms, queries, and reports.

OS X Interface

OpenOffice.org 3.0 sports a new OS X interface, complete with menus and keyboard shortcuts. But its greyness betrays its Java roots.

macros work identically in *OpenOffice.org* as they do in *Office*, there isn't 100% compatibility yet; the DOCX importers do a decent job of importing, but font and layout problems aren't unheard of.

More importantly, since *Office*'s and *OpenOffice.org*'s feature sets aren't identical, there are problems when *OpenOffice.org* tries to open a file that has *Office*-only functions. In particular, while *OpenOffice.org* does have some collaboration functions – *Calc* now has sharing features that enable others to work on a workbook while you're working on it – none of the *OpenOffice.org* programs support the commenting and change-tracking of *Office*. So when you open an *Office 2008* file in *OpenOffice.org* that contains changes, the comments, changes and original work all end up visible in the document. For more basic, day-to-day work, however, the compatibility is impressive and usually 100%.

Indeed, Visual Basic macros may have stopped working in *Office 2008*, thanks to Microsoft's decision not to port Visual Basic over to Intel on the Mac, but *OpenOffice.org* carries most macros forward pretty seamlessly and there are some big corporate players such as Novell working on improving compatibility even further – shame Microsoft can't do the same for its own software.

Improvements

There are other areas where *OpenOffice.org* exceeds *MS Office*. *Excel* may have lost its 'solver' in *Office 2008*, but *OpenOffice.org* now has a solver component that can calculate optimisation problems where the best value of a particular spreadsheet cell has to be calculated based on constraints in other cells.

OpenOffice.org also, of course, includes both a graphics package and a database package, neither of which are available in *Office* for Mac, and do a pretty good job.

Like most open source projects, *OpenOffice.org* updates frequently and often, so version 3.0 isn't as laden with new features as a commercial 3.0 would be. The list of new features is reasonable though, particularly if you add in some of the functions available from previous .x upgrades since 2.0, such as support for PDF/A and a new charting component. In *Calc*, it's now possible to draw error bars based on ranges provided in spreadsheet cells. *Impress* supports native table editing, rather than embedded *Calc* objects, and the crop function in *Impress* and *Draw* works like other programs'.

Budget option

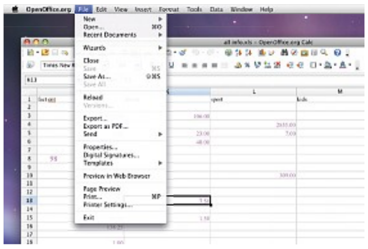
For anyone who can't afford *MS Office* or has an *MS* grudge, *OpenOffice.org* is fantastic. It's free, does the majority of things that *MS Office* can do as well as a multitude of things it can't, and is reasonably compatible with it as well. It's still a little raw and some of its functions are unintuitive or hard to find, but for anyone needing a proper office package, *OpenOffice.org* is more than up to the job.

Rob Buckley

THE TOP THREE | New features of OpenOffice.org

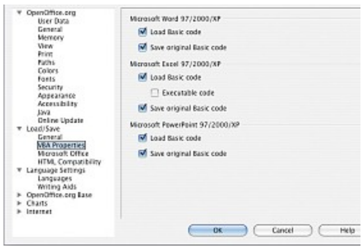
OS X interface

OpenOffice.org has finally managed to move out of the world of Unix and windowed X11, and now sports decent OS X integration, from standard menus and keyboard shortcuts through to support for OS X's accessibility frameworks. It even installs like any other application now, too.


OpenOffice.org
File
Edit
View
Insert
Format
Tools
Data
Window
Help
New
Open...
Recent Documents
Wizards
Close
Save
Save As...
Save All
Reload
Versions...
Export...
Export as PDF...
Send
Properties...
Digital Signatures...
Templates
Preview in Web Browser
Page Preview
Print...
Printer Settings...
Exit

MS Office compatibility

OpenOffice.org is compatible with *Microsoft Office*, and supports the new file formats of *Office 2007/2008*. While there are some features, such as commenting, that it can't handle, there are others, such as Visual Basic macros, that *Office 2008* can't handle, but *OpenOffice.org* can.


OpenOffice.org
User Data
General
Memory
View
Print
Paths
Colors
Fonts
Security
Appearance
Accessibility
Java
Online Update
Load/Save
General
VBA Properties
Microsoft Office
HTML Compatibility
Language Settings
Languages
Writing Aids
OpenOffice.org Base
Charts
Internet
OK
Cancel
Help

Microsoft Word 97/2000/XP

☑ Load Basic code

☑ Save original Basic code

Microsoft Excel 97/2000/XP

☑ Load Basic code

☐ Executable code

☑ Save original Basic code

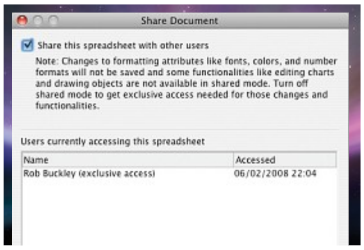
Microsoft PowerPoint 97/2000/XP

☑ Load Basic code

☑ Save original Basic code

Workbook sharing

This enables collaboration on spreadsheets between multiple users. By sharing a spreadsheet, you can allow other users to add their data to the spreadsheet; you can then easily integrate the new data with a few clicks, avoiding the potential for editing conflicts.


Share Document

☑ Share this spreadsheet with other users

Note: Changes to formatting attributes like fonts, colors, and number formats will not be saved and some functionalities like editing charts and drawing objects are not available in shared mode. Turn off shared mode to get exclusive access needed for those changes and functionalities.

Users currently accessing this spreadsheet

Name	Accessed
Rob Buckley (exclusive access)	06/02/2008 22:04

SINGLE-USER PERSONAL DATABASE SOFTWARE

FileMaker Bento 2

£29 This Mac-only application takes the hassle out of databases

CONTACT INFO

Developer FileMaker
www.filemaker.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484694

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Power PC G4, G5 or Intel-based Mac with Mac OS X 10.5.4 or higher.

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Simpler layout editing
- + Exchange data with *Numbers* and *Excel*
- + Split view lets you see data both ways
- – Limited integration with *Mail*
- – Somewhat inflexible layout tools
- – No way to share data on a network

VERDICT

★★★★½

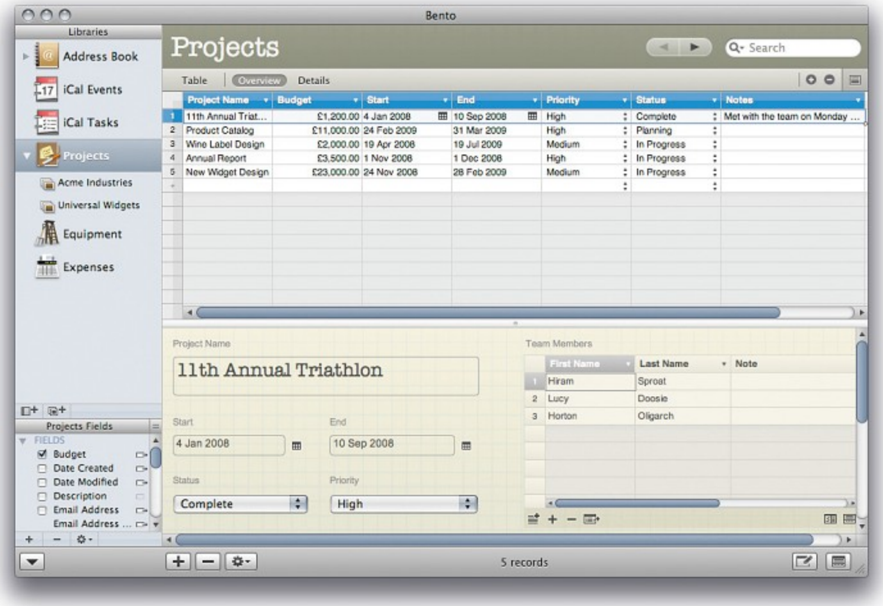
"Bento achieves the nearly impossible – it makes creating personal databases fast, intuitive and (almost) fun."

We use databases all the time – *iTunes*, *Address Book*, *iPhoto* and even *Finder* are all databases at heart. We're rarely aware of their true nature because we're not the ones who have to make the database work. We simply use it. The problems begin when the data we need to organise doesn't fit into ready-made apps like these and we have to create something from scratch. A professional database maker like *FileMaker Pro* may be too complex and expensive, but a simple list is too limited. *Bento* aims to plug this gap.

Familiar settings

Familiarity is *Bento*'s secret weapon. Since most people are already comfortable with *iTunes* and *iPhoto*, *Bento* borrows their approach and applies it to general-purpose databases. Each individual database you create in *Bento* is called a Library. Within each Library, you can set up multiple Collections, which are just like *iTunes* playlists. And, just as in *iTunes*, these can be Smart Collections which automatically include every item that meets certain criteria, or normal collections where items are added manually. For ad hoc searching, *Bento* also offers a search interface that looks much like *Spotlight*.

Within *Bento*'s window, records appear one at a time or as a tabular list. You can design your own forms and lists, but there's a wide range of templates to get you started, plus an expanded list of colour themes and an online forum where users can share templates they've designed (**http://forums.filemaker.com/fmbnto/?category.id=Use**). All layouts can be customised and *Bento* automatically spaces and aligns everything neatly. That's very helpful when you like the result, but can be inflexible if, for example, you want to tighten up the spacing to fit more onto the form. Previously you needed to switch to Customize Mode in order to create or edit form layouts. Now, you can move and resize fields directly on the layout just by clicking on the field name, which is a big improvement. The Table view is also more flexible now as you can enter data, add fields and change field types directly in the table. And there's a very welcome new Split view that combines a table and form in one window.



	Project Name	Budget	Start	End	Priority	Status	Notes
1	11th Annual Triat...	£1,200.00	4 Jan 2008	10 Sep 2008	High	Complete	Met with the team on Monday ...
2	Product Catalog	£11,000.00	24 Feb 2009	31 Mar 2009	High	Planning	
3	Wine Label Design	£2,000.00	19 Apr 2008	19 Jul 2009	Medium	In Progress	
4	Annual Report	£3,500.00	1 Nov 2008	1 Dec 2008	High	In Progress	
5	New Widget Design	£23,000.00	24 Nov 2008	28 Feb 2009	Medium	In Progress	

Project Name: 11th Annual Triathlon
Start: 4 Jan 2008
End: 10 Sep 2008
Status: Complete
Priority: High

Team Members

	First Name	Last Name	Note
1	Hiram	Sproat	
2	Lucy	Doosie	
3	Horton	Oligarch	

5 records

Bento's new Split view lets you see data as a table and form at the same time.

> "It may not offer the full flexibility of a professional database, but it does more than you might think"

When you first launch *Bento*, it automatically creates Libraries for your *Address Book* and *iCal* data. This data is accessed directly so no syncing is required; any change that you make in one appears immediately in the other. *Bento 2* adds integration with *Apple Mail*. You place a Message List field onto your form and drag selected messages to it from *Mail*. You can then view these messages from within *Bento* by clicking the Quick Look button. It's useful, but feels rather unsophisticated compared to the tight integration with *iCal* and *Address Book*, especially as messages that are deleted in *Mail* remain as broken links in *Bento*'s list until deleted there.

By contrast, *Bento*'s ability to create relational links between Libraries is highly effective – just drag any Library or Collection onto your layout and a small table appears where you can add records from the related Library. It may not offer the full flexibility of a professional relational database, but it does more than you might think possible, and with intuitive simplicity.

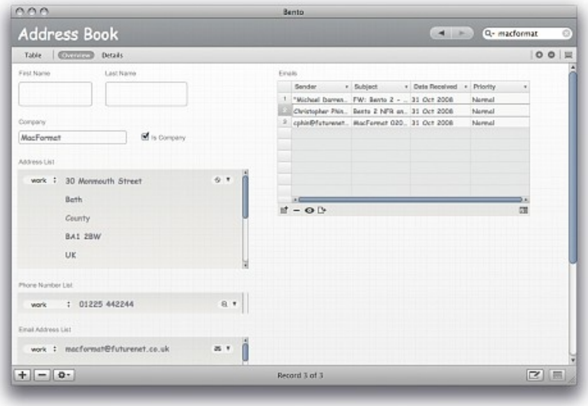
Apple-like styling

Although it was developed by *FileMaker*, *Bento* has more in common with Apple's *iWork* suite. The attention to styling and keeping things simple make *Bento* a snug fit with *iWork*, and integration between them has been much improved in this new version. You can now import and export data directly between *Bento* and *iWork Numbers* (or *Microsoft Excel*).

At £29, *Bento 2* is a bargain, although owners of the first version may feel miffed that there's no upgrade discount. Even so, this is a powerful and much improved application with a lot to offer anyone who has to manage personal data at home or a small business.

Jack Weber

Emails can now be attached to any record and viewed from within *Bento*.



First Name:
Last Name:
Company: MacFormat
☑ Is Company
Address List: work 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, County, BA1 2BW, UK
Phone Number List: work 01225 442244
Email Address List: work macformat@futurenet.co.uk

	Sender	Subject	Date Received	Priority
1	"Michael Darren...	FW: Bento 2 - ...	31 Oct 2008	Normal
2	Christopher Phin...	Bento 2 NFR an...	31 Oct 2008	Normal
3	cphin@futurenet...	MacFormat 020...	31 Oct 2008	Normal

Record 3 of 3

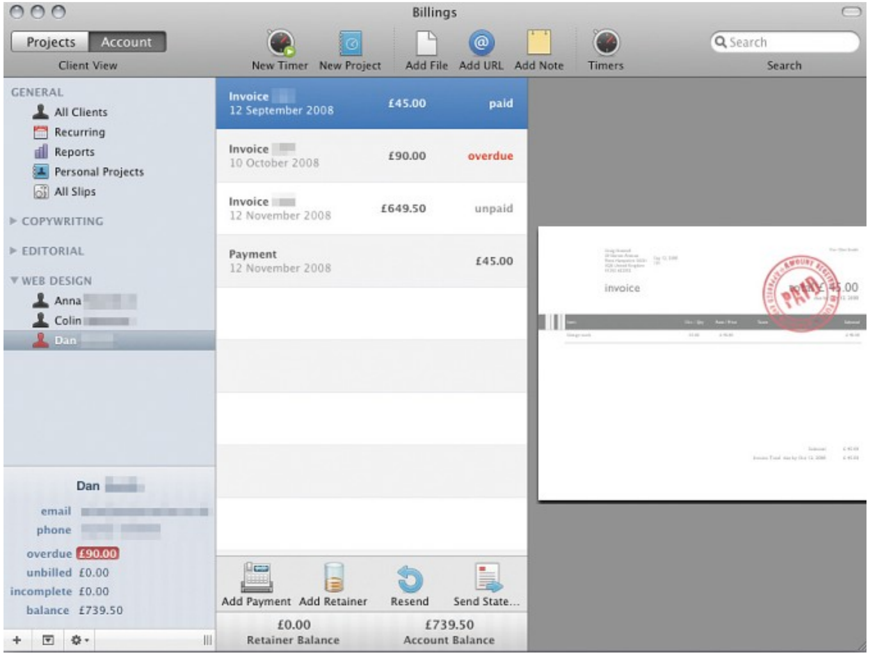
TIME-BILLING AND INVOICING APPLICATION

Marketcircle Inc. Billings 3.0.3

$59 (about £40); upgrade $35 (about £23) A financial application that saves time or just costs a pretty penny?

For freelancers and small businesses without dedicated staff for dealing with payments, it's easy to let invoicing slip and run the risk of getting into cashflow problems. *Billings* aims to take the drudge work out of such tasks, and provides a centralised interface for time-tracking, creating estimates, billing and invoicing.

The *Billings* interface is clean, polished and logical, and it's simple to get started. Basic workflow centres around clients, projects and slips. Clients are added via *Address Book* (if you request an entirely new client, you're taken to Apple's application to add details) and can be grouped in the *Billings* sidebar. Projects are then used to define batches of work for a client, with slips detailing individual estimates, expenses or timed recorded work, with user-definable rates and due-dates where required.


Billings
Projects
Account
Client View
New Timer
New Project
Add File
Add URL
Add Note
Timers
Search
GENERAL
All Clients
Recurring
Reports
Personal Projects
All Slips
COPYWRITING
EDITORIAL
WEB DESIGN
Anna [redacted]
Colin [redacted]
Dan
Add Payment
Add Retainer
Resend
Send State...
invoice
PAID

Invoice [redacted] 12 September 2008 £45.00 paid
Invoice [redacted] 10 October 2008 £90.00 overdue
Invoice [redacted] 12 November 2008 £649.50 unpaid
Payment 12 November 2008 £45.00

Dan [redacted]
email [redacted]
phone [redacted]
overdue £90.00
unbilled £0.00
incomplete £0.00
balance £739.50

£0.00 Retainer Balance
£739.50 Account Balance

Using the Account view or built-in reports, it's easy to discover who owes you money.

Click-and-go slips

Adding these components is straightforward, and a floating timer and menu-bar-based equivalent are available for system-wide time-tracking and basic slip management. Usefully, slips needn't be assigned to projects immediately – you can 'click and go', and worry about organising things later. And although *Billings* is clearly a sister application to *Daylite*, Marketcircle's productivity software, slips can be sent to both *Daylite* and *iCal*.

Occasionally, attention to detail worsens – some aspects of the interface are fiddly, and only two digits are available for hours in a slip's detail window and the floating timer, for a 130-hour timed project, displays '13:00' for its duration. However, full timing is available via a slip's log or the main *Billings* window, and the refinement seen since version 2 of *Billings* suggests quirks like this will soon be squashed.

When projects are completed, you'll want some money, and *Billings* makes invoicing simple. Click Send Invoice, select an invoice layout, define the slips you want to include, click Create Invoice and you're done. If you want to fine-tune things, *Billings* offers various delivery options (email, print, save to a file). It's also possible to create personalised stationary via the powerful Design window, which provides drag-and-drop dynamic components and plentiful arrangement and sizing options. However, we found the interface complex, and were disappointed by the lack of documentation.

> "Powerful reports enable you to see at a glance who owes you money and who your top clients are"

The best features of *Billings*, though, only become apparent once you've been working with it for a while. The Account view provides a simple chronological list of financial information relating to your clients (or a selected client), and clients with overdue payments are flagged red in the sidebar. Elsewhere, powerful reports enable you to see at a glance who owes you money, who your top clients are, and lists formed from 30 other criteria. If you like to maintain a manual job list as a spreadsheet, and create invoices in *Office* or *iWork*, *Billings* is sure to make you more productive.

Slip-ups

Unfortunately, long-time use also unearths the worst elements of *Billings*. First, there's no multiple user support, and a workaround of assigning workers to slips isn't flexible enough. More damning is *Billings*' lack of multiple currency support. This means if you bill, for example, in sterling, euros and dollars, you're out of luck. This was enough for us to slice an entire star from the rating.

In general, though, *Billings* impresses. It's well-priced for what it offers, user-friendly and feature-rich. But if your invoicing needs are light, grab a freeware time-tracker and investigate online invoicing (try **http://freshbooks.com**).

Craig Grannell

CONTACT INFO

Developer Marketcircle Inc.
www.marketcircle.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484682

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11+, 100MB free hard drive space, 1024x768 display resolution

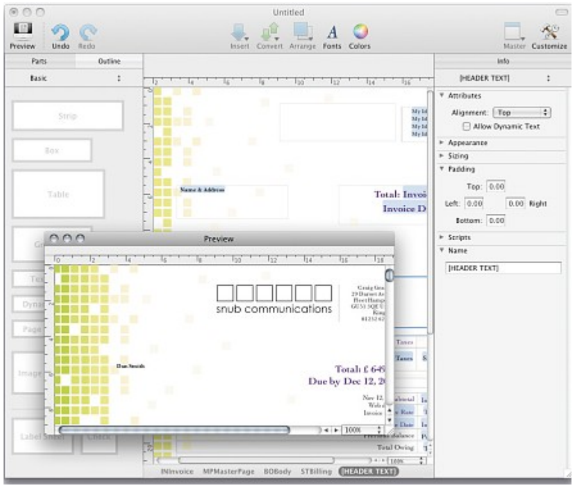
FOR AND AGAINST

+ Strong reporting functions
+ Reasonable Mac OS X integration
+ Powerful if complex custom templates
– Lacks multiple currency support
– No real multi-user support
– Can be bewildering

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A great interface and strong functionality, hampered by limitations relating to multiple currencies and users."


Untitled
Preview
Undo
Redo
Insert
Convert
Arrange
Fonts
Colors
Master
Customize
Parts
Outline
Basic
Strip
Box
Table
Image
Label
Info
[HEADER TEXT]
Attributes
Alignment: Top
Allow Dynamic Text
Appearance
Sizing
Padding
Top: 0.00
Left: 0.00
0.00 Right
Bottom: 0.00
Scripts
Name
[HEADER TEXT]
Preview
snub communications
Name & Address
Total: Invoi
Invoice D
Total: £ 6
Due by Dec 12, 2
INInvoice
MPMasterPage
BOBody
STBilling
[HEADER TEXT]

Custom templates can be created, but the interface is complex and will bewilder many.

INSTANT MESSAGE CLIENT

Yuuguu

£FREE Instant messaging go-between that's lets multiple clients with different log-ons screen share

CONTACT INFO

Developer Yuuguu
www.yuuguu.com
Latest price on TecRadar
www.techradar.com/484709

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.3 and above, PowerPC G4 500MHz or faster, 512MB RAM, 5MB free hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Simple to set up
- + Cross-platform screen sharing
- + Free
- − Doesn't add much to the field
- − Charges for audio conferencing
- − Uninspired interface

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

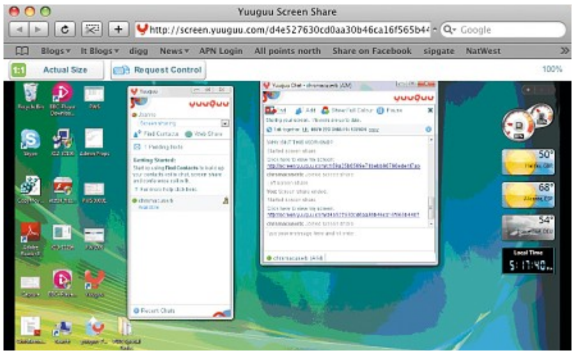
"It's free and offers cross-platform screen sharing, but the rest has been done before."

With a number of instant messaging platforms around, it can seem like you need to sign up to all of them simply to keep in touch. *Yuuguu* is a cross-platform instant messaging client that can hook up the contacts from your instant messaging network. This means you can keep your favourite client and still share features with people on other networks like IRQ and MSN.

The most compelling feature in *Yuuguu*'s arsenal is the ability to share a screen and allow a remote user to control your machine. Of course, if you're connecting two Macs then *iChat* already does this, but *Yuuguu* lets you cross the divide and control a PC or Linux machine.

Setup is simply a case of downloading the application and adding your network to *Yuuguu*. All your contacts will show in a list and you message them in the usual way. To share your screen you simply start a chat and click the Show button. The recipient gets a web link that when clicked opens your screen in a browser. From here it can be viewed or controlled, with your permission. You can also audio chat but this costs and requires you to call a separate number.

Yuuguu seems like an application that's solving a problem only very few people have. Enabling people to connect different IM networks together without changing clients is a useful idea, but in practice is it really such a huge issue? If your business relies upon remote working then you should probably be using a single client and network. Charging for audio is a bit pointless too, as *Skype* will quite happily do this for free. If you do need to work with someone on a PC then the screen sharing option is nice, but that's as far as it goes. As an IM and collaboration tool *Yuuguu* is perfectly adequate, but we really can't see any compelling reason to adopt it. **Christopher Brennan**



Screen sharing with a Windows Vista user is a nice touch for a free application.

iTUNES ALBUM COVER TOOL

equinux CoverScout 3

€30 (£25) Quick and simple iTunes album artwork tool with excellent editing and management features

CONTACT INFO

Developer Equinnix
www.equinux.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484718

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5, PowerPC G4 or higher, internet connection

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Simple to use
- + Fast searches
- + Excellent interface
- + Useful editing tools
- + Makes it very simple to print CD covers
- − A touch expensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

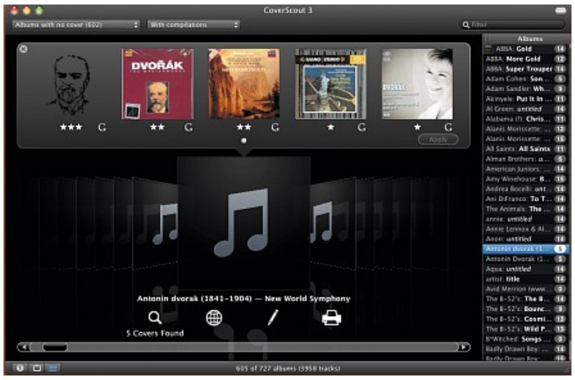
"CoverScout makes artwork management simple, but leaves you in complete control."

CoverScout is an *iTunes* album artwork tool designed to enhance *iTunes*' capabilities. It's much more than a simple artwork downloader, however, giving you editing and management options. The application scans your music folder and looks for albums that lack a cover image and then scours websites such as Amazon, Google Images and Wal-Mart to see if one is available to download.

Once you've scanned your music folder, albums without artwork are listed on the left of the window. You can highlight a single album and search one at a time or scan the whole list simultaneously. *CoverScout* gives you a number of options, with the simplest being to scan and assign artwork automatically. However, if you'd like to have more control over the process, this is where the extras really begin to show their worth.

All the artwork that *CoverScout* finds is shown in the cover clipboard and you can choose which one you'd like to use. Once you've selected the album cover you can crop, rotate and scale it. In addition, you can manage the levels and give the image a frame. If the album cover isn't available then *CoverScout* can capture an image from an iSight camera, too.

Managing your album artwork can be a tedious task, but *CoverScout* does streamline the process and make it a lot more bearable. It's true that the images *CoverScout* finds aren't always perfect, but the editing options allow you a great level of control. The newly designed interface is simple and instantly useable. We had a music folder with over 700 missing covers and *CoverScout* found relevant images for all but three of our albums. If you're looking for a quick way to re-vision your album collection *CoverScout* will suit your needs perfectly. **Christopher Phin**



Finding images is incredibly simple and the number of image options for each album is great.

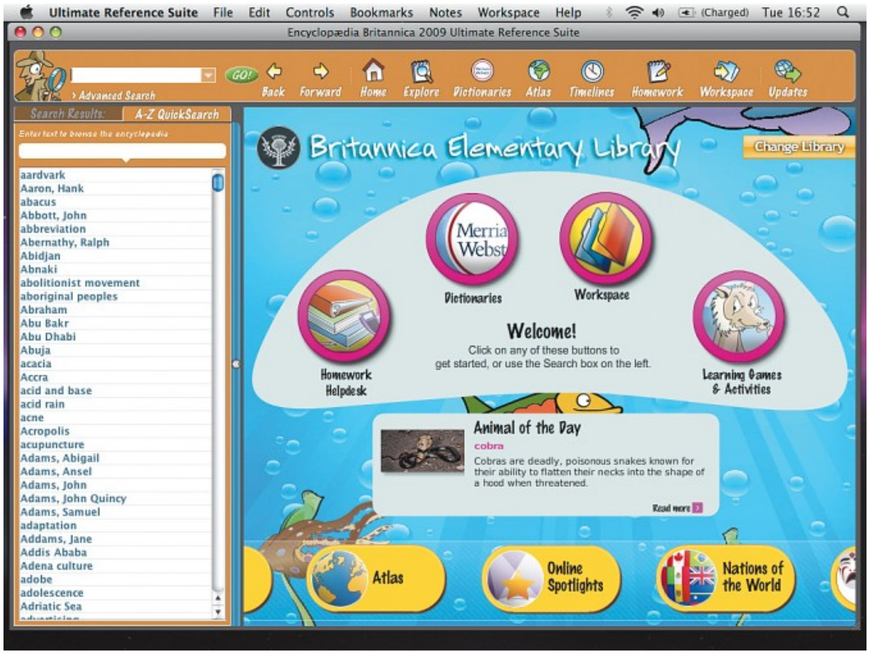
ENCYCLOPAEDIA SOFTWARE

Britannica 2009 Ultimate Edition

£40 Can an old-style multimedia encyclopaedia still cut it in this day and age?

The days of multimedia CD-ROMs are long gone, replaced by lightweight web apps that can do the job better online, but there's one area where the multimedia experience still rumbles on, and that's with encyclopaedias.

The *Britannica 2009* DVD requires a hefty 2.8GB of space to install, and it functions very much like a web browser, so you'll instantly feel right at home: you can bookmark articles to return to later, and there's a prominent search bar that helps you find what you're looking for fast. All the pages you look at appear as tabs, so you can quickly flick back to what you were looking at previously, and there are also the usual Forward and Back buttons to help you navigate through your searches. You can also search within articles using a standard ⌘+[F] and add your own notes.


Ultimate Reference Suite File Edit Controls Bookmarks Notes Workspace Help (Charged) Tue 16:52
Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Ultimate Reference Suite
GO!
Advanced Search
Back Forward Home Explore Dictionaries Atlas Timelines Homework Workspace Updates
Search Results A-Z QuickSearch
Enter text to browse the encyclopedia
aardvark
Aaron, Hank
abacus
Abbott, John
abbreviation
Abernathy, Ralph
Abidjan
Abnaki
abolitionist movement
aboriginal peoples
Abraham
Abu Bakr
Abu Dhabi
Abuja
acacia
Accra
acid and base
acid rain
acne
Acropolis
acupuncture
Adams, Abigail
Adams, Ansel
Adams, John
Adams, John Quincy
Adams, Samuel
adaptation
Addams, Jane
Addis Ababa
Adena culture
adobe
adolescence
Adriatic Sea
Britannica Elementary Library
Change Library
Dictionaries
Workspace
Homework Helpdesk
Learning Games & Activities
Animal of the Day
cobra
Read more
Atlas
Online Spotlights
Nations of the World

Welcome!

Click on any of these buttons to get started, or use the Search box on the left.

Cobras are deadly, poisonous snakes known for their ability to flatten their necks into the shape of a hood when threatened.

The *Britannica 2009* DVD interface is organised just like a web browser, so children can get a taste of the internet without the threat of its darker aspects.

Book of knowledge

There is, of course, a wealth of the traditional 'encyclopaedia' content you'd expect to find, and it's all of a very high quality. There are more than 100,000 articles available here, some with video clips and images. Looking up Apple, Inc, we found a concise and well informed history of the company and some good pictures of the first Apple computer, and the iPhone.

We have to say that the whole experience of using *Britannica* is marred somewhat because the *Britannica* browser has a jittery screen refresh method that made all the text flicker every time we scrolled – it's annoying because it's distracting and makes articles hard to read.

Along with the articles, there's a wealth of other information – a dictionary and thesaurus, world atlas, study guides, interactive timelines and the curious BrainStormer, which offers mindmap-style access to related subjects. We're not sure it's particularly useful, but it's good fun.

A key feature of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* DVD experience is its three age-specific libraries. These are essentially different filters to view the same information through, but you also get some age-specific content, so there are some simple educational games for the kids, for example. You get a more child-friendly interface with the Britannica Elementary Library (for kids aged 6-10), something a little more teenager-suited with the Britannica Student Library (for kids aged 10-14) and the full 'advanced' Britannica Library.

This splitting of libraries hints at the real use for this program: if your child needs help with their homework then they'll find *Britannica* useful. But the drawback is that, as with any encyclopaedia on a DVD, it's out of date as soon as it's released. For instance, the 2009 edition reviewed here was released before Barack Obama became the first African American president of the United States, a landmark moment in history, so it won't be until the 2010 edition next year when it gets included. Along with the DVD you get a full year's free access to Britannica Online, which is obviously much more up to date, but it doesn't update the information on your Mac.

> "A key feature of the Encyclopaedia Britannica DVD experience is its three age-specific libraries"

Safe for kids

Britannica's greatest weakness is also its greatest strength. You get results quicker than you do online, there are no pop-up adverts and no dubious content, so you don't have to worry about leaving your kids unsupervised with it. There's no paid-for placement of results, and everything is ranked by its relevance.

Many of us find that we can manage quite happily with the free Wikipedia for most research projects. Its information may not have the 100% accuracy of the authoritative *Britannica* encyclopaedia, but it's no less deep. For educators or concerned parents there's still a place for *Britannica*, though.

Graham Barlow

CONTACT INFO

Developer Britannica
www.britannica.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484726

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or higher, PowerPC G5 or Intel Core processor, 2GB free hard drive space (4.2GB for full installation), 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

FOR AND AGAINST

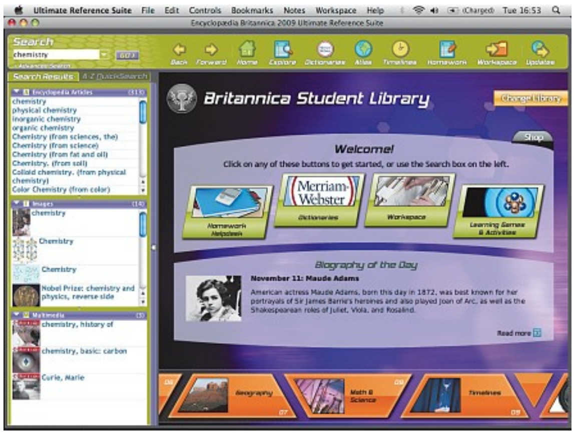
- ⊕ High quality information
- ⊕ Easy search facility
- ⊕ Intuitive to use
- ⊕ Lots of fun extras
- ⊖ Jittery text scrolling
- ⊖ Out of date material

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A useful resource, but Britannica really needs to sort out the jittery text scrolling."

The *Britannica* experience lends itself well to use as a study aid or learning resource.


Ultimate Reference Suite File Edit Controls Bookmarks Notes Workspace Help (Charged) Tue 16:53
Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Ultimate Reference Suite
Search
chemistry
GO!
Back Forward Home Explore Dictionaries Atlas Timelines Homework Workspace Updates
Search Results A-Z QuickSearch
Encyclopedia Articles (313)
chemistry
physical chemistry
inorganic chemistry
organic chemistry
Chemistry (from sciences, the)
Chemistry (from science)
Chemistry (from fat and oil)
Chemistry. (from soil)
Colloid chemistry. (from physical chemistry)
Color Chemistry (from color)
Images (14)
chemistry
Chemistry
Chemistry
Nobel Prize: chemistry and physics, reverse side
Multimedia (5)
chemistry, history of
chemistry, basic: carbon
Curie, Marie
Britannica Student Library
Change Library
Shop
Homework Helpdesk
Dictionaries
Workspace
Learning Games & Activities
Biography of the Day
Read more
Geography
Math & Science
Timelines

Welcome!

Click on any of these buttons to get started, or use the Search box on the left.

November 11: Maude Adams

American actress Maude Adams, born this day in 1872, was best known for her portrayals of Sir James Barrie's heroines and also played Joan of Arc, as well as the Shakespearean roles of Juliet, Viola, and Rosalind.

SOCIAL NETWORKING WEB BROWSER

Flock 2.0

£FREE Firefox's cousin says: welcome to the social!

CONTACT INFO

Developer Flock
www.flock.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484742

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Stable and fast
- + Unique, polished feature set
- + Rolls in *Firefox 3* improvements
- − Doesn't support all networking services
- − Might overwhelm newcomers
- − Ideally needs a big screen

VERDICT

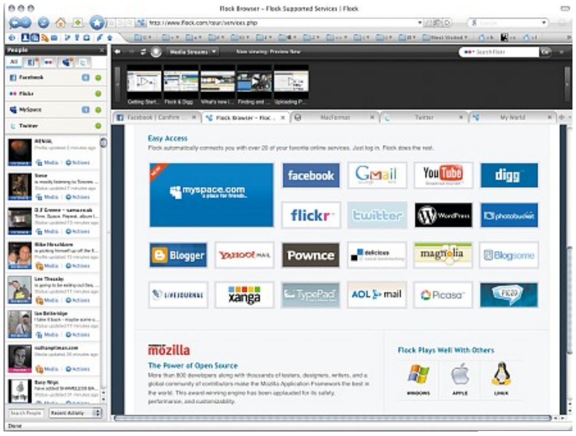
★★★★½

"It might not be for everyone, but this is a great browser for social networking fans."

Eschewing the current penchant for simplifying browser interfaces (see *Google Chrome* and recent versions of *Opera*), *Flock* enables you to aggregate a massive amount of information centred around social networking, using a largely intuitive and surprisingly uncluttered interface. The sheer amount of information that can be displayed might overwhelm some, and you need a fairly big screen to make the most of the browser's various panes. But persevere and *Flock* becomes a veritable time-saver.

Flock remains just about the only browser to make good use of a sidebar – it's used to keep track of the likes of Facebook friends, RSS feeds and webmail. Elsewhere, the Media Bar provides a means of browsing media streams, such as Flickr and Facebook photo albums. *Flock* also provides plentiful interaction features, enabling you to update your blog or Flickr stream directly from the browser, or drag and drop content from a website to one of your friends on a subscribed service.

In terms of new features, *Flock 2* doesn't have a huge amount of things to offer, but the changes are significant. MySpace is now integrated as a 'people' service, media RSS streams are (usually) detected and can be loaded into the Media Bar, and *Firefox 3*'s improvements have been rolled in. The last of those things is important, because it means that if you turn off all the extras, *Flock* is on a par with the Mac's best browser. However, if you're into social networking, *Flock* can take things further, providing you with an unbeatable centralised interface for news, webmail and keeping track of friends. **Craig Grannell**


Flock Browser – Flock Supported Services | Flock
People
Facebook
Flickr
MySpace
Twitter
Media Streams
Easy Access
myspace.com
facebook
Gmail
YouTube
digg
flickr
twitter
WordPress
photobucket
Blogger
Yahoo! Mail
Pownce
del.icio.us
magnolia
Blogsome
LiveJournal
xanga
TypePad
AOL mail
Picasa
mozilla
The Power of Open Source
Flock Plays Well With Others
WINDOWS
APPLE
LINUX

Flock directly integrates with a large number of popular social networking services.

SIMPLE PHOTO EDITING SOFTWARE

Ohanaware Funtastic Photos

£23.50 Simple, fun and easy-to-use photo editing tool that's perfect for the beginner

CONTACT INFO

Developer Ohanaware
www.ohanaware.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/484751

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G4 or later, 1GHz or faster, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Non-destructive editing process
- + Fun built-in themes
- + Good set of more advanced tools
- + Cheap
- − Interface has some quirks
- − Likelihood is you'll quickly outgrow it

VERDICT

★★★★☆

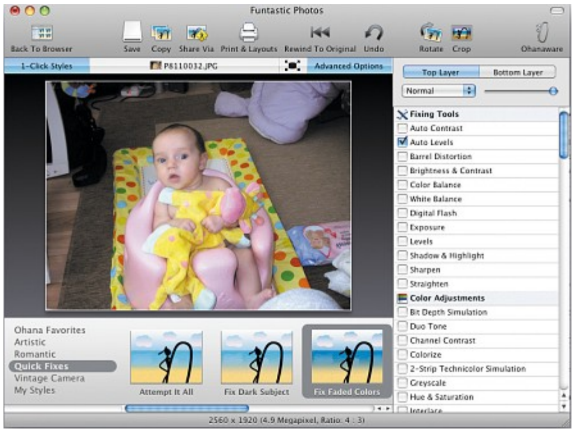
"Simple and cheap tool that offers beginners a safe way to experiment with pictures."

Photo editing applications can be incredibly scary things to new users with their numerous palettes, windows and tools. *iPhoto* does a good job of simplifying the editing process but it still lacks quite a few features. Step forward *Funtastic Photos*.

Funtastic Photos offers non-destructive editing so that no matter what changes you make your original image is always available. The editing options range from a set of pre-defined styles to a host of advanced tools such as levels, white balance and sharpening. You can send your images to a number of locations including Flickr and Picasa, as well as MobileMe and Facebook. The Print Layout option enables you to create simple collages of your images. It's a fairly comprehensive list of features.

The *Funtastic* interface is a bit like a Mac OS X *Finder* window on steroids and it can take a little getting used to. However, once you've located the images you want to edit it's a simple case of double-clicking and getting on with it. The built-in styles might not be to all tastes, but there's a decent range of options and the Rewind To Original tool leaves you in no danger of accidentally destroying an image. It does this by making you save a copy of the image rather than editing the original, so you do end up with two copies of your picture should you make any changes.

If you have a copy of *Photoshop* then *Funtastic Photos* isn't for you, but if the idea of photo editing sends shivers down your spine then this is a good step up from *iPhoto*. It doesn't require you to move away from *iPhoto* for organising your images either. The export and print options also add to the package. **Christopher Brennan**


Funtastic Photos
Back To Browser
Save
Copy
Share Via
Print & Layouts
Rewind To Original
Undo
Rotate
Crop
Ohanaware
1-Click Styles
P8110032.JPG
Advanced Options
Top Layer
Bottom Layer
Normal
Fixing Tools
Auto Contrast
Auto Levels
Barrel Distortion
Brightness & Contrast
Color Balance
White Balance
Digital Flash
Exposure
Levels
Shadow & Highlight
Sharpen
Straighten
Color Adjustments
Bit Depth Simulation
Duo Tone
Channel Contrast
Colorize
2-Strip Technicolor Simulation
Greyscale
Hue & Saturation
Ohana Favorites
Artistic
Romantic
Quick Fixes
Vintage Camera
My Styles
Attempt It All
Fix Dark Subject
Fix Faded Colors
2560 x 1920 (4.9 Megapixel, Ratio: 4 : 3)

The automatic image styles include quick fixes as well as stylistic options.

ISSUE 196 Summer 2008

iPod and iTunes masterclass
Get more from *Pages*
Add RAM to a Mac mini
Enter the world of Hackintosh
We investigate data recovery labs
Give your Mac a makeover
Six external hard drives tested

On the DVD
Narrator 1.14: Text-to-speech tool
TouchCopy 2.5: Back up your iPod's data
PhotoAccute Studio 2.70: Enhance pics
Plus: Dutch lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 197 July 2008

The ultimate Mac survival guide
Save hundreds by buying refurb
Get more from *iWork '08*
Use a Mac as a base station
Uninstall apps from your Mac
Brand new iMac revealed
Sub-£150 compact cameras tested

On the DVD
Citra FX 2.0: Manipulate images
skEdit: Text editor for web developers
TimeSlice 2.8: Timing and billing app
Plus: Japanese lessons, demos & more

ISSUE 198 August 2008

iLife Expert
Get free antivirus protection
Tips for all the *Office* apps
Mail merge using *Pages*
Photoshop tips and tricks
iPhone 3G report
Email clients Group Test

On the DVD
Stomp 1.3: Compress video for email
Spectasia 3: 3D control interface
Artist's Butler 2.8: Art studio manager
Plus: Widgets, video tutorials & more

ISSUE 199 September 2008

Connect your Mac
32 great iPhone apps
Mac OS X timesavers
AppleCare investigated
Make a website in a weekend
Get creative with photos
Financial software rated

On the DVD
BitVice Lite 1.8: Compress video
Dream Capture 1: Record video
ExactScan 1.8.5: Digitise documents
Plus: Games, video tutorials & more

Sold out!

ISSUE 200 October 2008

200 unmissable Mac tips
Happy birthday, *MacFormat*!
20 Mac classics
Fine-tune RAW files
Set up multiple displays
Find your files in a flash
Desktop speakers tried and tested

On the DVD
ConceptDraw MINDMAP: Mind planner
AppDelete 1.1.1: Remove software
TextSpeech Pro Basic: Mac speech app
Plus: Demos, video tutorials & more

ISSUE 201 November 2008

Essential Mac money-savers
All new iPod touch and nanos!
Apple takes over the high street
The history of the iPod
Use your iPhone as a remote
Turn photos into watercolours
Six Mac web browsers compared

On the DVD
HoudahSpot 2.0.9: Spotlight add-on
Invoice 2.1.5: Keep track of finances
Crossword Wizard 4SE: Create crosswords
Plus: Games, video tutorials & more

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You've only just missed...

Issue 202 – December 2008

Clean up your Mac
Clear out OS X's clutter for a faster Mac!

Plus…

- Apple's new MacBook and MacBook Pro reviewed
- *Creative Suite 4* in-depth review
- *MacFormat's* Christmas gift guide
- Keep files safe and secure
- Make great sites in *iWeb*
- Five WiFi multifunction devices tested

On the DVD

Mellel 2.2.7.2: Full word processor
Email Backup Pro 1.5.4: Prevent losing messages
RationalPlan Multi Project: Manage business tasks
Plus: Hot demos, video tutorials, games & more!

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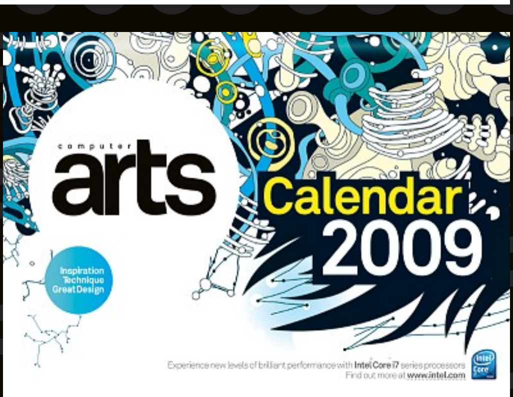
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Mac FORMAT
ON SALE
Wednesday
7 January
2008

Next issue...

Mac problems solved!

Join us for the ultimate guide to fixing all your Mac problems.

Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard

What does Apple have in store for OS X in 2009?

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Calibrate your Mac's monitor
- Get the perfect iPhoto set up
- Expertly edit movies in iMovie '08

ALL THIS AND MORE!

iPhone apps

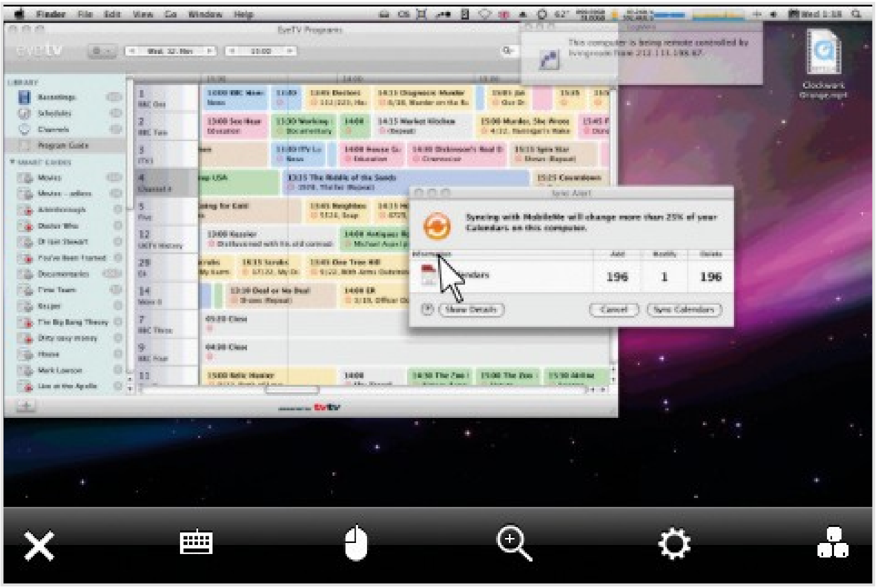
Christopher Phin picks out the very best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

iPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

LogMeIn Ignition (beta)

£TBA Control your Macs (and PCs) over the internet, from your iPhone

We've reviewed the LogMeIn system before (see *MacFormat* issue 192, page 92); the idea is that you install a little service on all the Macs and PCs that you own or otherwise administer – it's very lightweight: we use it with a 500MHz G4 with no ill effects – and you can then control them over the internet by logging in at **http://logmein.com**. This web interface works well, and you can use it from pretty much any modern computer connected to the internet. You're presented with a screen showing what's being displayed on your remote Mac or PC, and can control the keyboard and mouse as if you were sitting right in front of the computer. It's robust and it's free.



> "Control the mouse and keyboard as if you were sitting right in front of the computer"

So we were excited when the company shared news of the iPhone app that lets you control your computers using the same system. It's generally very fluid, and the decision to keep the cursor fixed in the centre of the screen and move the screen around behind it, though it takes a little getting used to, is inspired. You get much more precision than trying to jab at fine details with your finger. A tap on the screen is a click, two finger taps are a right-click, and you can zoom out with a pinch. You can manually limit the colour palette or have it optimise automatically. It even works over EDGE.

It uses the iPhone's virtual keyboard too, and while the lack of some standard Mac keys is annoying, you can at least issue commands with modifiers. We'd rather LogMeIn was more sympathetic to Mac users – we had to work out that the 'Win' key is the ⌘ key – and in our testing there were still some glitches to be worked out. We couldn't type a pound sign, for example.

The iPhone's limited memory caused problems as well, with frequent low memory warnings.

Even with these caveats, however, and even without knowing what LogMeIn intends to charge – if anything – for *Ignition*, it gets a huge thumbs up from us. There's no mucking about with router setups; it just works.

VERDICT

★★★★½

"The beta we tested needs a final polish, but Ignition is a brilliant idea that works well".

SNIPPETS

iPhone firmware 2.2

As *MacFormat* was going to press, Apple was expected to release an update to the iPhone's firmware. *Maps* looks set to receive a few useful updates, including the ability to generate walking directions, public transport routes and the Street View that you can preview on the desktop at **http://maps.google.com** for certain US cities, and – big news, this – it looks like we'll finally be able to update podcasts directly from the iPhone. No word on copy and past or MMS yet, though; how long are you going to keep us waiting, Apple?

Joswiak speaks to T3

Our sister magazine *T3* spoke to Apple's vice president of iPod and iPhone product marketing, Greg Joswiak, who was predictably bullish about the iPhone and iPod touch as a gaming platform. "I think [the game developers are] going to blow everyone away," he said. "Because the computer and the 3D graphics power here are significantly greater than what you have here [picks up Nintendo DS]. This allows people to make significantly higher quality games. And the touch is always in your pocket."

REMOTE MOUSE AND KEYBOARD

Air Mouse

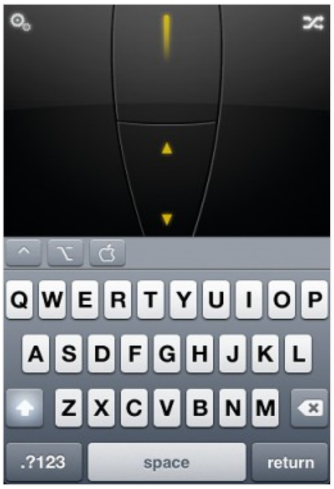
Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£3.50 It's like having a mini keyboard and mouse!

Air Mouse comes in two parts: an iPhone app that you load onto your iPhone or iPod touch, and a little piece of server software that runs on your Mac or PC. They discover each other automatically over the *Bonjour* service.

Once paired over WiFi, your iPhone can act as a mouse and keyboard for your Mac. You can choose to flick between an on-sreen representation of a trackpad that you use as you'd expect or – more spectacularly, though less accurately – a mode that uses your iPhone's motion sensor to control the cursor.

The on-screen keyboard with modifier keys is useful too, especially if you use your Mac as a media centre, though the limitation of the iPhone's own keyboard means that you can't perform certain tasks such as switch applications using ⌘+[tab], and, currently, there's no way for you to click and drag.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"An invaluable remote mouse and keyboard, and the developer has lots of updates planned."

INTERACTIVE GLOBE

Google Earth

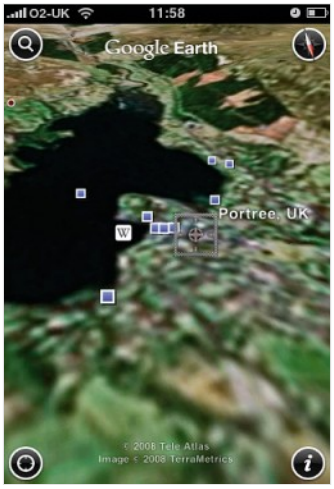
£FREE Search the globe in the palm of your hand

Like *Super Monkey Ball*, *Google Earth* was an application born for the iPhone – and it's free! The combination of the iPhone's huge touchscreen, its connection to the internet, and its position-sensing accelerometer make *Google Earth* for the iPhone a great piece of software.

It presents you with an explorable globe, letting you search for places, businesses and more. All the images are satellite and aerial shots, and you automatically get the most recent pictures; it's not live, however.

You can spin the view round with two fingers and tilt the phone to change the angle. Geotagged photo links are shown, along with links to Wikipedia articles about what you're looking at; it's a great way to explore an unfamiliar city.

In common with many iPhone apps, you sometimes feel a bit lost, and it's a little sluggish and crashy, but we love it nonetheless.



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Some fantastic technology at work here, although it could use some optimisation."

VOICE RECORDING

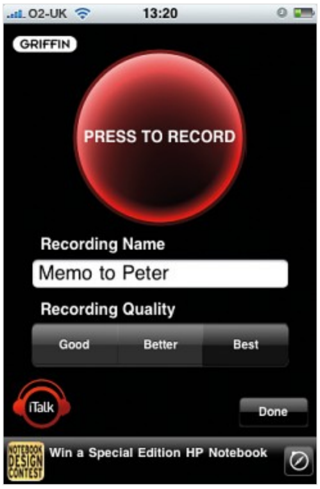
iTalk Recorder

£FREE Time to get rid of that old dictaphone

We're as surprised as anyone that Apple hasn't decided to give the iPhone the native ability to record audio notes – it's something dumb iPods can do when you plug in a compatible voice recorder after all – but luckily third parties are stepping in. We like this solution from top-class accessory maker Griffin, not just because it's reasonably polished and offers handy features such as the ability to name, delete and pick a quality level for recordings, but also because it makes it easy to get the recordings off the iPhone and onto your Mac or PC.

A helper app on your computer finds your iPhone automatically over the WiFi network, and you can simply drag the recordings off. Quality from the iPhone's mic is pretty good.

It's a free piece of software as we write, and there's a small panel of clickable advertising in the display, so we can't see that changing.



Recording Name: Memo to Peter

Recording Quality

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Solid voice recording app, and it's easy to get your recordings off, too."

OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

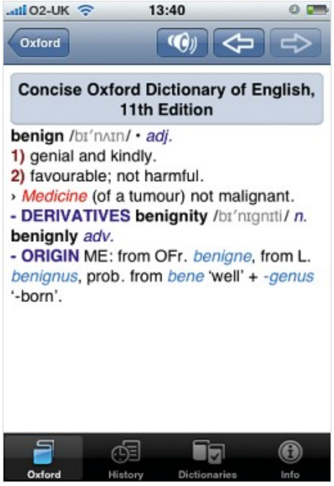
Concise OED

£15 Over 240,000 words and phrases included

There are other dictionaries available for the iPhone on Apple's store – *English Dictionary & Thesaurus* by Ultralingua is considered one of the best, particularly as it includes synonyms – but there's a sense of security that comes from having the 34MB OED literally at your fingertips.

It's pricey for an iPhone app but it's a tenner less than the RRP of the print edition, and is more flexible to boot. Not only are entries hyperlinked to definitions, but many have an audio recording of the correct English pronunciation. The technical quality of these audio clips is a bit rough, and the accent perhaps a little cut-glass, but it's very useful nevertheless.

We'd have liked a thesaurus as well, and sensitivity to poor spelling when looking up words, but having the definitive English dictionary in your pocket is not to be sneezed at.



Concise Oxford Dictionary of English, 11th Edition

benign /bɪˈnʌɪn/ • *adj.*
1) genial and kindly.
2) favourable; not harmful.
› *Medicine* (of a tumour) not malignant.
- DERIVATIVES **benignity** /bɪˈnɪgnɪti/ *n.* **benignly** *adv.*
- ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *benigne*, from L. *benignus*, prob. from *bene* 'well' + *-genus* '-born'.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"There are cheaper dictionaries, and it could do more, but it's worth it for the authority."

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Find all reviewed titles on this issue's *MacFormat* disc.

SNIPPETS

It's quackers

DuckFighter (**www.duckfighter.com**) describes itself as "the only way to fight ducks in your Dock", which piqued our interest. On launch, various ducks of a pirate, robot and vampire persuasion battle it out to the death, quacking as they expire. Annoyingly, each duck required us to confirm we were okay to launch it (for security reasons – the 'ducks' are seemingly individual tiny apps), but after a while, battle could commence without interruption, providing a surreal duck-based equivalent of rock, paper, scissors.

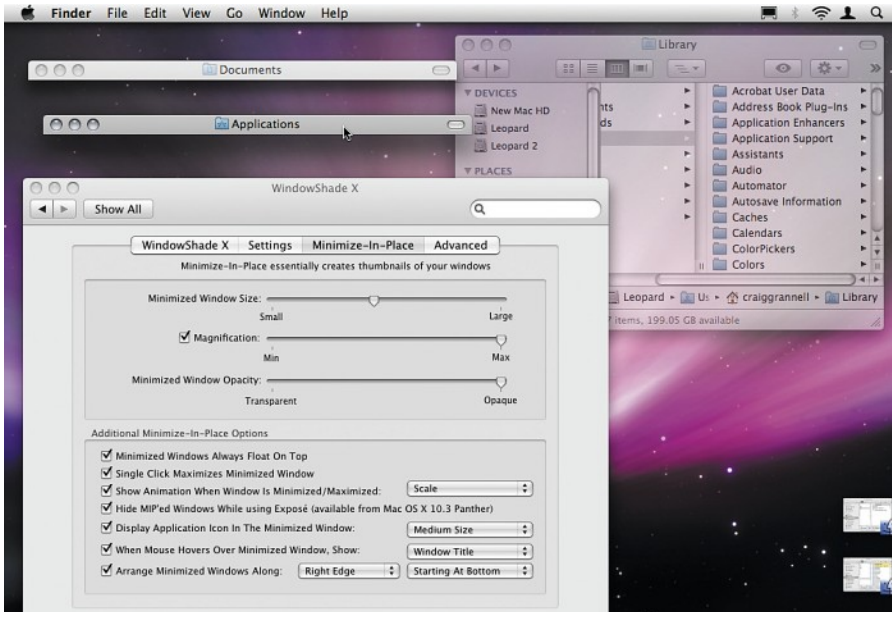
So wrong it's write

If you're going to rip off a piece of software, do it honestly, just like Joseph Lyman. Fed up with *WriteRoom*'s time-limited trial, Lyman devised *WrongRoom* (**http://jozhaus.com/wrongroom/**) as a freeware alternative. Lacking the quality, features and pretty icon of *WriteRoom*, Lyman's description of his app ("a shoddy freeware clone") is bang on, but we applaud his near-genius marketing and the plentiful links to *WriteRoom* via his app's website, documentation and disk image.

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

WindowShade X 4.2

$14 (£9) Unsanity's window minimisation 'haxie' arrives for Leopard



Minimize-In-Place essentially creates thumbnails of your windows

Minimized Window Size: Small – Large

☑ Magnification: Min – Max

Minimized Window Opacity: Transparent – Opaque

Additional Minimize-In-Place Options

☑ Minimized Windows Always Float On Top
☑ Single Click Maximizes Minimized Window
☑ Show Animation When Window Is Minimized/Maximized: Scale
☑ Hide MIP'ed Windows While using Exposé (available from Mac OS X 10.3 Panther)
☑ Display Application Icon In The Minimized Window: Medium Size
☑ When Mouse Hovers Over Minimized Window, Show: Window Title
☑ Arrange Minimized Windows Along: Right Edge; Starting At Bottom

Talk to a Mac veteran about minimising windows to the Dock and they'll likely get all grumpy. This is because Apple used to offer a very different – and some would say superior – means of minimising windows: a double-click on a window's title bar would make everything underneath disappear (the Mac emitting a pleasing whooshing noise as it did so) until you double-clicked it again. The main advantage of this method of minimisation was that it enabled you to very rapidly check out what was behind a window, by 'windowshading' and then restoring the front-most window.

Unsanity's *WindowShade X* – now finally available for Leopard – is a long-serving Mac OS X add-on that aims to bring this functionality to modern systems, and in this task it succeeds, no doubt making seasoned Mac users whoop with glee.

Elsewhere, *WindowShade X* offers a bunch of other window minimisation functions, with rather more variable results. Via the **Settings** preferences section, various combinations of modifier keys and mouse clicks can be used to perform actions on a window, such as hiding its parent application, making it transparent, and minimising it in place. The last of those is problematic – it's a nice idea, but minimised windows can barely be zoomed, don't expand in Exposé, and sometimes stack oddly. Also, the **Settings** section appeared broken in our review copy, which stopped us defining additional events to add to pre-set ones.

Ultimately, we like the concept behind *WindowShade X* very much – it's just the execution that currently leaves a little to be desired. However, if you can overlook the bugs and shortcomings, chances are you'll find *WindowShade X* a welcome addition to your Mac. See the tutorial on p66 for more.

> "Windowshading enables you to rapidly check out what's behind a window, and then restore the front-most one"

CONTACT INFO

Developer Unsanity
www.unsanity.com/haxies/wsx
Vendor Unsanity
www.unsanity.com/haxies/wsx

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A flawed execution of a highly useful idea, but still worth checking out."

A-Dock X v1.5

$10 (£6) http://jerome.foucher.free.fr/ADockX/ADockX.html

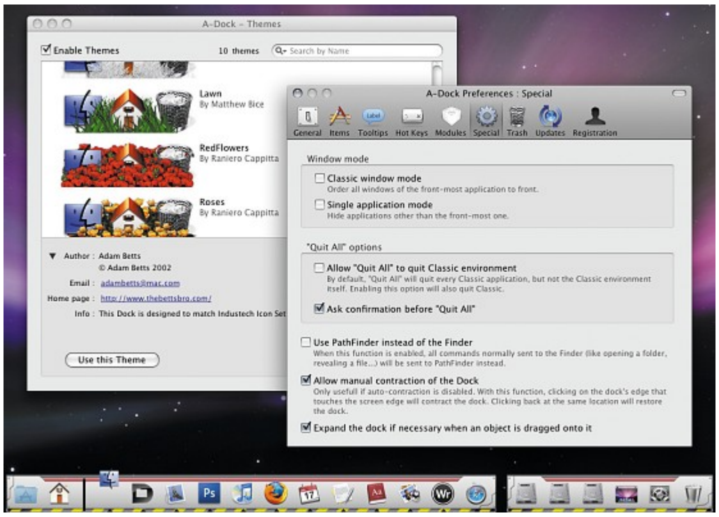
Like *WindowShade X*, *A-Dock X* is another old-timer being updated for Leopard. In fact, this Dock-pretender pre-dates Mac OS X, a version having been released for Mac OS 9. More configurable than Apple's own Dock, there's plenty to like about *A-Dock X*. Although many of the program's options are purely aesthetic – replacement Trash icons and Dock background themes – some are useful practical enhancements. For example, built-in modules enable you to automatically display volumes in your *A-Dock* Dock, and the front-most application's icon can be off-set to make it more obvious.

Despite the program's handy features, it's hard to justify buying *A-Dock X*, since you can't access minimised windows from it, nor replace Mac OS X's equivalent.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Some good ideas, but hard to justify spending money on."


A-Dock – Themes

☑ Enable Themes 10 themes

Lawn
By Matthew Bice

RedFlowers
By Raniero Cappitta

Roses
By Raniero Cappitta

Author : Adam Betts
© Adam Betts 2002
Email : adambetts@mac.com
Home page : http://www.thebettsbro.com/
Info : This Dock is designed to match Industech Icon Set

A-Dock Preferences : Special

Window mode

☐ Classic window mode
Order all windows of the front-most application to front.

☐ Single application mode
Hide applications other than the front-most one.

"Quit All" options

☐ Allow "Quit All" to quit Classic environment
By default, "Quit All" will quit every Classic application, but not the Classic environment itself. Enabling this option will also quit Classic.

☑ Ask confirmation before "Quit All"

☐ Use PathFinder instead of the Finder
When this function is enabled, all commands normally sent to the Finder (like opening a folder, revealing a file...) will be sent to PathFinder instead.

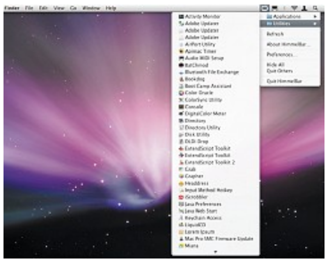
☑ Allow manual contraction of the Dock
Only usefull if auto-contraction is disabled. With this function, clicking on the dock's edge that touches the screen edge will contract the dock. Clicking back at the same location will restore the dock.

☑ Expand the dock if necessary when an object is dragged onto it

HimmelBar 3.0b64

£FREE http://softbend.free.fr/himmelbar/download.html

HimmelBar sits in your menu bar and provides alphabetical lists of apps within your **Applications** and **Utilities** folders (and those in user-defined custom locations). On selecting an item, it opens, making *HimmelBar* an extremely efficient launcher. A certain amount of flexibility is provided regarding menu contents – individual items can be excluded, as can groups such as UI elements and permanent Dock items. Despite running a beta version, we experienced no problems with *HimmelBar* at all.



VERDICT

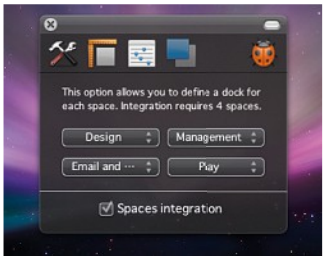
★★★★☆

"A fast, efficient way for mouse-centric users to access applications."

Dock Spaces 2.10

£FREE http://web.mac.com/patrickjamelo/dock.html

Since Mac OS X's inception, Dock editors have become commonplace, but *Dock Spaces* has a cunning trick up its sleeve: Spaces integration. Yes, this tiny piece of freeware does almost everything you'd expect from a Dock switcher: you can save a bunch of Docks, adjust each one's settings and then launch it via the menu bar. However, the ability to tie each Dock to a specific Space is great. The inability to edit existing Docks is a pity, though. Perhaps the developer can consider this for the next update…


This option allows you to define a dock for each space. Integration requires 4 spaces.

Design
Management
Email and ···
Play

☑ Spaces integration

VERDICT

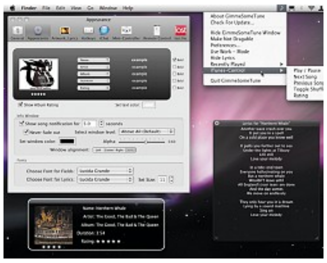
★★★☆☆

"Great Spaces integration, but bad Translucent interface and editing issues."

GimmeSomeTune 4.2

£DONATION http://eternalstorms.at/gimmesometune/

Here's another application trying to plug the holes that Apple left in *iTunes*, providing system-wide controls and notifications. The feature-set is promising, not least the lyrics window – handy for *X Factor* wannabes – and Last.fm support. However, in use the application can be quite awkward and a little buggy. For an all-in-one solution, *CoverSutra* beats it, and if you can do without on-screen lyrics, a combination of *I Love Stars*, *iTunesMenu* and *iScrobbler* is a much better bet.



VERDICT

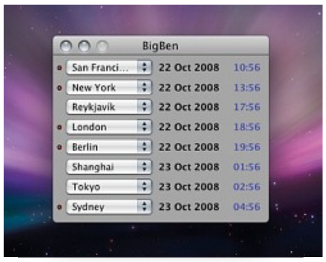
★★☆☆☆

"Aside from its lyrics window, doesn't really have anything to offer."

BigBen 2.0.6

$10 (£6) http://asram.org/texts/softEn.html

Okay, we admit it: we were somewhat intrigued by the name of this application and wondered exactly what it did. It turns out that *BigBen* is a world clock (which will annoy anyone who knows that Big Ben is, in fact, merely the name of the Great Clock of Westminster's largest bell, but we digress). *BigBen* works well and is very easy to set up, but it's astonishingly ugly, and anyone spending money on this application when *iStat menus* does the same job for free is a crazy person. ●


BigBen

San Franci...	22 Oct 2008	10:56
New York	22 Oct 2008	13:56
Reykjavik	22 Oct 2008	17:56
London	22 Oct 2008	18:56
Berlin	22 Oct 2008	19:56
Shanghai	23 Oct 2008	01:56
Tokyo	23 Oct 2008	02:56
Sydney	23 Oct 2008	04:56

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Stable and simple, but horribly ugly and overpriced."

Step 14: Snapshots
Step 15: Split and Merge
Step 16: Text Options
Step 17: And Finally...
Other Stuff You Should Know
Research
RoomWithAView
spacewalk_info
ThisIsBuzzAldrin
Trash
100%
COPY
SCAN
FAX
PHOTO
START
ON
Address Book
Redial/Pause
Setup
OK
Back
Color
Cancel
X5650
LEXMARK
PictBridge

Word perfect

We put Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages to the test against four lesser-known Mac-based rivals.

Such is Microsoft's marketing clout that most people – even Mac owners – immediately think of Word when considering an application to craft letters, tenders, articles, and other types of text-oriented documents. However, despite being the most prevalent choice, Word is not necessarily the best, and so this group test explores five varied and generally impressive alternatives along with Microsoft's giant, to discover the most suitable application for you.

Although word processing was originally all about text formatting, document structure and cross-referencing, the modern position on such tools sees the lines blur with desktop publishing – people now expect a modicum of layout control, including the ability to insert imagery, define visual styles for document consistency, and drag components around the page.

Therefore, our tests aim to determine which application comes out on top for a range of features that most typical home users will require a word processor for. We'll be looking at tools for visual formatting alongside structural capabilities, spelling and proofing, and finding out how easy to use and Mac-like each product is.

Ease of use

ector. The first thing you will notice is the index card
an important concept in Scrivener. You can type a synopsis of your documen
the index card (note the header of the index card can be used to rename the docume
core ideas behind Scrivener is that every document (or chunk of text, or image, or wh
with a synopsis, which is represented in the inspector by the index card. You can then
synopses in different ways (which we will come to later) which will make outlining and
work easier. You can auto-generate a synopsis by clicking on the button in the top-
inspector: if any text is selected in the editor, it will be copied into the synopsis; if no text
first few lines of text will be used.

So that is the index card. Below the index card are other tools to help you organise y
arting with the General pane. Note that the Synopsis and General panes can be collapse
their header bars.

General

The General pane contains several meta-data elements:

Words: 1,387 Chars: 7,846

WORD PROCESSORS

Word perfect

Find some of the apps reviewed here on this issue's disc.

Words Craig Grannell **Photography** Andy Short

We put Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages to the test against four lesser-known Mac-based rivals

Such is Microsoft's marketing clout that most people – even Mac owners – immediately think of *Word* when considering an application to craft letters, tenders, articles, and other types of text documents. However, despite being the most prevalent choice, *Word* isn't necessarily the best, and so this group test explores five varied and generally impressive alternatives along with Microsoft's giant, to discover the most suitable application for you.

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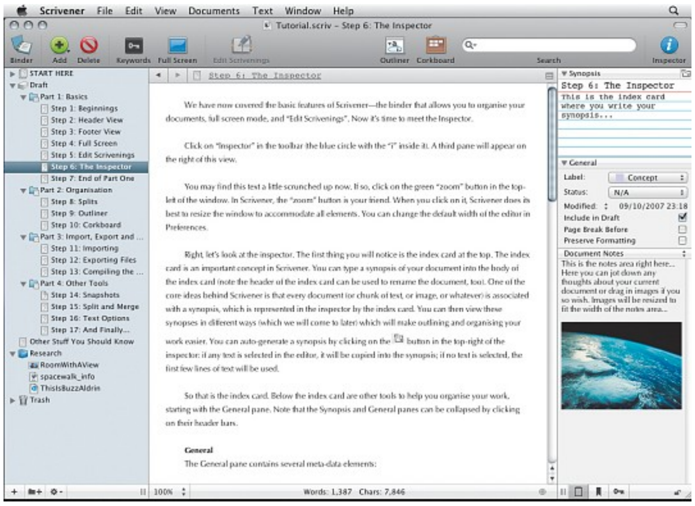
Our tests will determine which application comes out on top for features that most home users would expect to find in a word processor. We'll be looking at tools for visual formatting alongside structural capabilities, spelling and proofing, and finding out how easy to use and Mac-like each product is. ►

> "Our tests will determine which application comes out on top for features that most home users would expect to find"

ON TEST

- Mellel 2.5 $49
- Microsoft Word 2008 With Office: £107
- Nisus Writer Pro 1.1 $69
- OpenOffice.org 3 £Free
- Pages 3.0.2 With iWork '08: £55
- Scrivener 1.11 $39.95


Scrivener
File
Edit
View
Documents
Text
Window
Help
Tutorial.scriv – Step 6: The Inspector
Binder
Add
Delete
Keywords
Full Screen
Edit Scrivenings
Outliner
Corkboard
Search
Inspector
START HERE
Draft
Part 1: Basics
Step 1: Beginnings
Step 2: Header View
Step 3: Footer View
Step 4: Full Screen
Step 5: Edit Scrivenings
Step 6: The Inspector
Step 7: End of Part One
Part 2: Organisation
Step 8: Splits
Step 9: Outliner
Step 10: Corkboard
Part 3: Import, Export and ...
Step 11: Importing
Step 12: Exporting Files
Step 13: Compiling the ...
Part 4: Other Tools
Step 14: Snapshots
Step 15: Split and Merge
Step 16: Text Options
Step 17: And Finally...
Other Stuff You Should Know
Research
RoomWithAView
spacewalk_info
ThisIsBuzzAldrin
Trash
Synopsis
General
Label:
Concept
Status:
N/A
Modified:
09/10/2007 23:18
Include in Draft
Page Break Before
Preserve Formatting
Document Notes
100%
Words: 1,387 Chars: 7,846

Step 6: The Inspector

We have now covered the basic features of Scrivener—the binder that allows you to organise your documents, full screen mode, and "Edit Scrivenings". Now it's time to meet the Inspector.

Click on "Inspector" in the toolbar (the blue circle with the "i" inside it). A third pane will appear on the right of this view.

You may find this text a little scrunched up now. If so, click on the green "zoom" button in the top-left of the window. In Scrivener, the "zoom" button is your friend. When you click on it, Scrivener does its best to resize the window to accommodate all elements. You can change the default width of the editor in Preferences.

Right, let's look at the inspector. The first thing you will notice is the index card at the top. The index card is an important concept in Scrivener. You can type a synopsis of your document into the body of the index card (note the header of the index card can be used to rename the document, too). One of the core ideas behind Scrivener is that every document (or chunk of text, or image, or whatever) is associated with a synopsis, which is represented in the inspector by the index card. You can then view these synopses in different ways (which we will come to later) which will make outlining and organising your work easier. You can auto-generate a synopsis by clicking on the button in the top-right of the inspector: if any text is selected in the editor, it will be copied into the synopsis; if no text is selected, the first few lines of text will be used.

So that is the index card. Below the index card are other tools to help you organise your work, starting with the General pane. Note that the Synopsis and General panes can be collapsed by clicking on their header bars.

General

The General pane contains several meta-data elements:

Step 6: The Inspector

This is the index card where you write your synopsis...

This is the notes area right here... Here you can jot down any thoughts about your current document or drag in images if you so wish. Images will be resized to fit the width of the notes area...

Scrivener's tutorial brilliantly uses a project to teach you how to build one yourself.

TEST ONE

Ease of use

Pick up and play, or pick up and pray?

A sign of a good application is if it's intuitive enough to pick up easily. With the exception of *Scrivener* and, to some extent, *Mellel*, it's pretty obvious how to get going with all of the applications on test, but it's only once you start digging into more advanced features that the differences emerge.

Mellel's bizarre interface left us nonplussed, and it's easy to get lost in its maze of options. Even with its exhaustive documentation, we often became disorientated, and the application's inability to undo past save points proved a big drawback.

Among *Word*, *OpenOffice.org*, *Pages* and *Nisus Writer Pro*, the streamlined offerings from Apple and Nisus win out. It's just far more obvious how to use them. *Nisus* also adds various widgets that enhance usability and nudge it ahead of *Pages*. By comparison, *OpenOffice.org* is aping an aged *Word*, and *Word* itself, despite some interface refinements, feels cluttered and overbearing.

Scrivener presents a different way of working, based around projects, but its fantastic tutorial and tidy interface means it scores highly.

RESULTS	
Mellel	★★☆☆☆
Microsoft Word	★★★☆☆
Nisus Writer Pro	★★★★★
OpenOffice.org	★★☆☆☆
Pages	★★★★☆
Scrivener	★★★★★

TEST TWO

Layout and styles

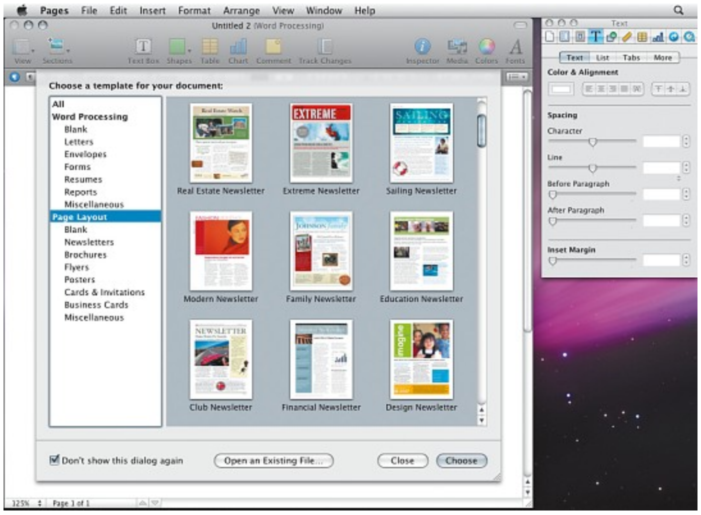
Adding visual pizzazz and consistency

This category encompasses each application's ability to create styles for ensuring document-wide visual consistency, along with the kind of DTP-style layout capabilities that many users of word processors require these days.

In terms of layout, *Word* and *Pages* get a kick-start via their selection of good-looking built-in templates. *Word* has improved since *Office 2004*, and now provides more scope for precision layout and effects, but this was always *Pages*' virtue, straddling the divide between word processing and DTP. The current version is no exception, and its superior interface nudges it ahead of *Word*.

Both apps are fine at styles, too, although *Word*'s interface is often needlessly complex and fiddly. With *Pages*, the ability to easily select all instances of a style is a nice touch, although it pales beside the supreme elegance of *Nisus Writer Pro*. The latter offers similar features to *Pages*, but creating and editing styles via its sidebar feels far more intuitive. *Mellel* impresses with its range of style-oriented features, although it loses ground due to limited layout options.

RESULTS	
Mellel	★★★☆☆
Microsoft Word	★★★★☆
Nisus Writer Pro	★★★★☆
OpenOffice.org	★★★☆☆
Pages	★★★★★
Scrivener	★★☆☆☆


Pages
File
Edit
Insert
Format
Arrange
View
Window
Help
Untitled 2 (Word Processing)
View
Sections
Text Box
Shapes
Table
Chart
Comment
Track Changes
Inspector
Media
Colors
Fonts
Choose a template for your document:
All
Word Processing
Blank
Letters
Envelopes
Forms
Resumes
Reports
Miscellaneous
Page Layout
Blank
Newsletters
Brochures
Flyers
Posters
Cards & Invitations
Business Cards
Miscellaneous
Real Estate Newsletter
Extreme Newsletter
Sailing Newsletter
Modern Newsletter
Family Newsletter
Education Newsletter
Club Newsletter
Financial Newsletter
Design Newsletter
☑ Don't show this dialog again
Open an Existing File...
Close
Choose
Text
List
Tabs
More
Color & Alignment
Spacing
Character
Line
Before Paragraph
After Paragraph
Inset Margin
125%
Page 1 of 1

Pages comes with a number of beautifully designed templates to use as starting points for your own work.

THE WRITE STUFF | Software for the easily distracted

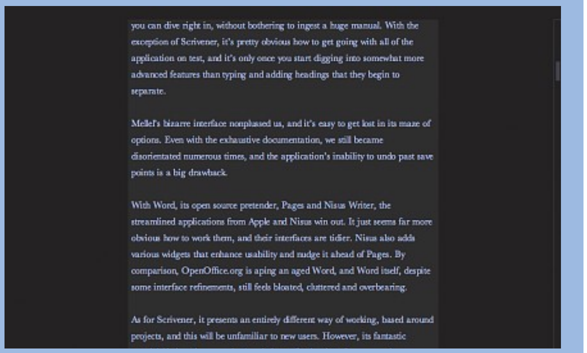
Not so long ago, the only thing in front of a writer was a typewriter. Now, the digital equivalent is surrounded by dozens of other applications clamouring for attention. For the easily distracted, this is a problem.

Of the applications on test, only *Scrivener* offers a decent full-screen mode, enabling you to block out everything else on your desktop and just concentrate on words. If you're attracted to this feature, you might also check out the excellent *WriteRoom* (www.hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom).

On first launch, *WriteRoom* is amusingly retro, providing neon-green typewriter-like text on a black background. However, the display is fully configurable, enabling you to amend fonts, colours and the column width, along with toggling a scroll-bar and document information section (for displaying word count, character count and line number).

Although unsuitable for lengthy writing projects or anything that requires proper layout, it's fantastic for short pieces of text, such as articles and small essays. (And for those moments where you need other applications to complete your writing project, hitting [Escape] shifts *WriteRoom* temporarily into a standard windowed mode.)

Hog Bay Software has also taken the elegant simplicity of *WriteRoom* to the iPhone, primarily as a replacement for the built-in *Notes* application. With its sleek design, optional horizontal orientation and WiFi access, *WriteRoom* betters the iPhone's *Notes* in many ways, and if you grab a copy, you also get a $5 voucher for the desktop version of *WriteRoom*.



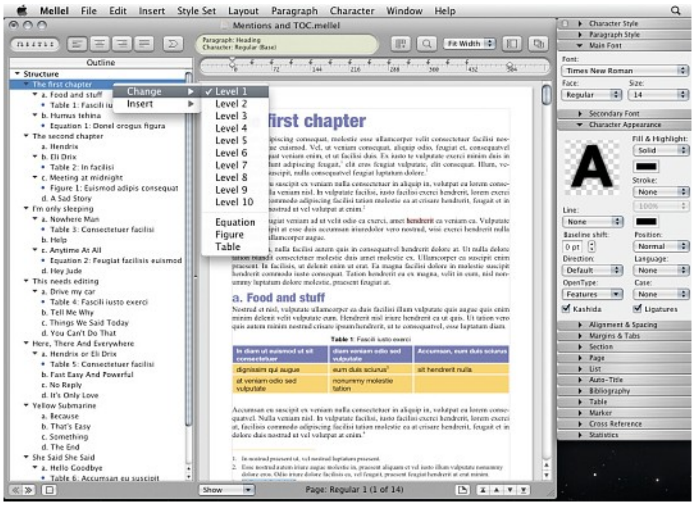
you can dive right in, without bothering to ingest a huge manual. With the exception of Scrivener, it's pretty obvious how to get going with all of the application on test, and it's only once you start digging into somewhat more advanced features than typing and adding headings that they begin to separate.

Mellel's bizarre interface nonplussed us, and it's easy to get lost in its maze of options. Even with the exhaustive documentation, we still became disorientated numerous times, and the application's inability to undo past save points is a big drawback.

With Word, its open source pretender, Pages and Nisus Writer, the streamlined applications from Apple and Nisus win out. It just seems far more obvious how to work them, and their interfaces are tidier. Nisus also adds various widgets that enhance usability and nudge it ahead of Pages. By comparison, OpenOffice.org is aping an aged Word, and Word itself, despite some interface refinements, still feels bloated, cluttered and overbearing.

As for Scrivener, it presents an entirely different way of working, based around projects, and this will be unfamiliar to new users. However, its fantastic

WriteRoom is somewhat retro but brilliant for short pieces of writing.



Mellel's best features relate to structuring documents, such as its wildly impressive Outline pane.

TEST THREE

Structuring work

How easy is it to arrange lengthy texts?

Mellel was primarily designed for authoring academic and technical texts, and its Outline pane is fantastic, offering a clear and concise overview of your document. Elements can be promoted, demoted and rearranged via clicks or drag-and-drop, and it's one of the few elements of *Mellel* that feels utterly intuitive. Its robust tools for headers, footers, cross-referencing and outlining reflect the kind of project *Mellel* is best for authoring.

By comparison, *Word's* outline view, while offering similar functionality, feels dated and clunky, although its various single-click options for inserting structural elements (headers, footers and so on) enable you to give documents a certain amount of visual panache with minimal effort. Oddly, *OpenOffice.org's* Navigation pane felt superior to *Word's* equivalent tools, enabling fuss-free restructuring.

Instead of headings, footers and the like, *Scrivener* offers the means to split documents into sections and then combine selections on the fly, making it the ideal app for arranging and rearranging a lengthy text.

RESULTS	
Mellel	★★★★★
Microsoft Word	★★★☆☆
Nisus Writer Pro	★★☆☆☆
OpenOffice.org	★★★☆☆
Pages	★★☆☆☆
Scrivener	★★★★★

TEST FOUR

Language aids

How easy is it to weed out spulling mistokes?

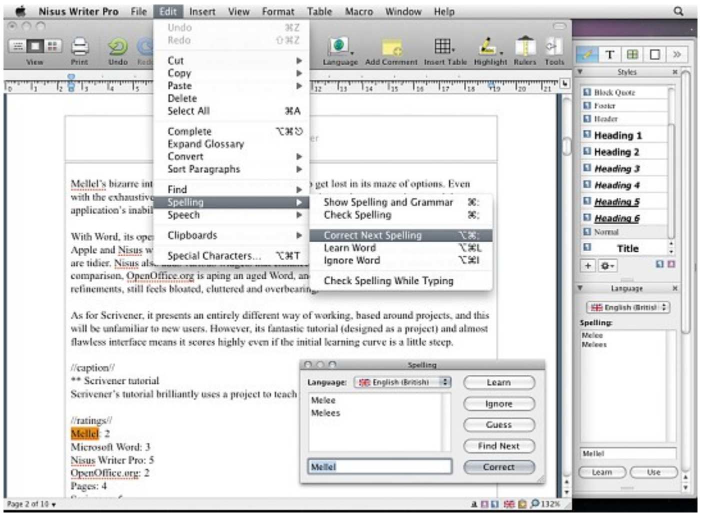
Spelling and proofing tools comprise spell-checking, grammar checking and auto-correction. The first is most important, while grammar checks are never particularly accurate, but are mildly useful for flagging occasional obvious errors, and auto-correction can be either amazing or infuriating.

A greyed-out grammar box, lack of auto-correction and problems checking pasted text got *Mellel* a big red squiggle here, but every other application on test fared well. *Pages* clumsily splits grammar and spell-checking into different panes, but redeems itself with plentiful options and strong auto-completion.

Word matches *Pages* punch for punch with its excellent options, but then falls out of the ring for using proprietary dictionaries rather than the system one.

The star pupil, though, is *Nisus Writer Pro*. It lacks a grammar checker, but attention to detail elsewhere makes up for this. Highlighted words and current language are shown in a clear interface, while its live thesaurus, auto-correction, keyboard shortcuts and speed give it top-scorer status.

RESULTS	
Mellel	★★☆☆☆
Microsoft Word	★★★★☆
Nisus Writer Pro	★★★★★
OpenOffice.org	★★★☆☆
Pages	★★★★☆
Scrivener	★★★★☆



Mellel's bizarre int… get lost in its maze of options. Even with the exhaustive… application's inabil…

With Word, its ope… Apple and Nisus w… are tidier. Nisus als… comparison, OpenOffice.org is aping an aged Word, an… refinements, still feels bloated, cluttered and overbearing.

As for Scrivener, it presents an entirely different way of working, based around projects, and this will be unfamiliar to new users. However, its fantastic tutorial (designed as a project) and almost flawless interface means it scores highly even if the initial learning curve is a little steep.

//caption//
** Scrivener tutorial
Scrivener's tutorial brilliantly uses a project to teach

//ratings//
Mellel: 2
Microsoft Word: 3
Nisus Writer Pro: 5
OpenOffice.org: 2
Pages: 4

Additional highlighting and shortcuts give *Nisus Writer Pro* the edge when it comes to spell-checking.

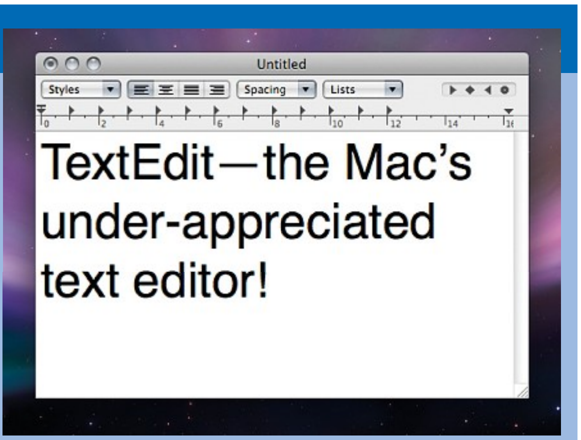
OUT OF THE BOX | The Mac's built-in option

If you're the kind of person who's sitting reading this article, getting increasingly bewildered by the choices on offer and thinking, "But I only want to write the odd letter and read *Word* documents," you might actually be catered for without having to install anything at all.

TextEdit nestles in the Applications folder of Mac OS X and is a largely unappreciated freebie. Via **Format > Wrap to Page** you get a simple layout view, and *TextEdit* includes many of the other basics required for general writing tasks, such as lists, spacing, tabs and even user-definable styles. And with the application being so lightweight, it doesn't impact on whatever else you have open, making it ideal for quick-fire writing tasks.

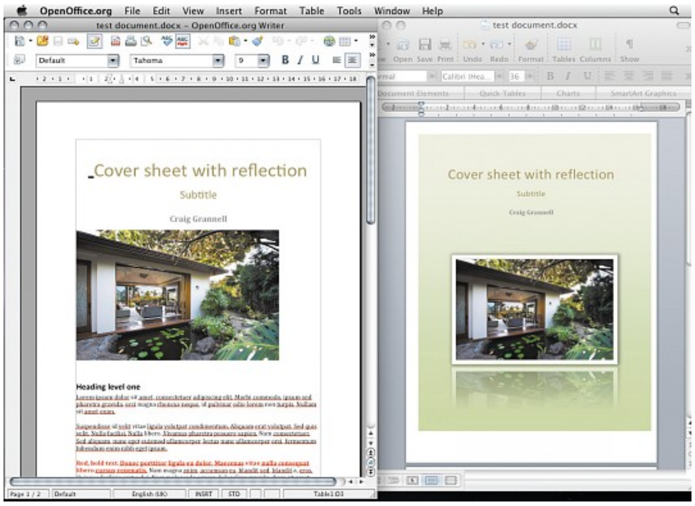
Although it defaults to Rich Text Format (RTF) for saving files, other options are available, including HTML, ODT and three Microsoft formats – XML, DOC and DOCX. (If using a pre-Leopard version of *TextEdit*, this selection is limited to RTF, DOC, Word XML and HTML.) Note, however, that when including images in your document, you're restricted to RTFD (RTF with attachments) or printing to PDF.

For viewing documents, *TextEdit* is less useful – it can't open *Pages* documents and only grabs text from *Microsoft Word* files. Chances are, though, that *Quick Look* can pick up the slack for you: although it doesn't display *Microsoft Word* files entirely accurately, it makes a good stab at them. And perhaps unsurprisingly, *Quick Look* does an even better job at displaying documents saved using Apple's *Pages*. To find out more about *TextEdit* see our tutorial on page 60.



TextEdit—the Mac's under-appreciated text editor!

TextEdit is often overlooked, but it's got plenty of tools for basic writing work.



Despite aiming to be a free and open source *Word* equivalent, *OpenOffice.org's Word* compatibility is flawed.

TEST FIVE

Office compatibility

How do they fare when faced with Word documents?

Although using an alternative to *Word* is fine, there's a chance you'll occasionally need to open, edit and save documents created using Microsoft's application. And results proved variable with the DOC and DOCX files we tested.

Every app bar *Mellel* managed to rip text from our documents (*Mellel* was fine with DOC files, but stumbled when confronted with DOCX), although *Scrivener* managed nothing further. *Nisus Writer Pro* also grabbed tables (if not their styling) from DOCX files and made a stab at including images and layout from DOCs, but generally messed things up.

Surprisingly, *OpenOffice.org* lags behind Apple's *Pages*. Neither application got things entirely right: both were confused by *Word* template cover pages, and while *Pages* floundered with text styles, *OpenOffice.org* couldn't correctly deal with image styles and placement. DOCX-wise, however, *Pages'* blunders were less of an issue.

In terms of exporting back to *Word*, advanced styling could still be lost occasionally, but again *Pages* nosed in front of *OpenOffice.org*.

RESULTS

Mellel	☆☆☆☆☆
Microsoft Word	★★★★★
Nisus Writer Pro	★★☆☆☆
OpenOffice.org	★★★☆☆
Pages	★★★★☆
Scrivener	★☆☆☆☆

TEST SIX

Mac integration

How well do the apps adhere to the Mac experience?

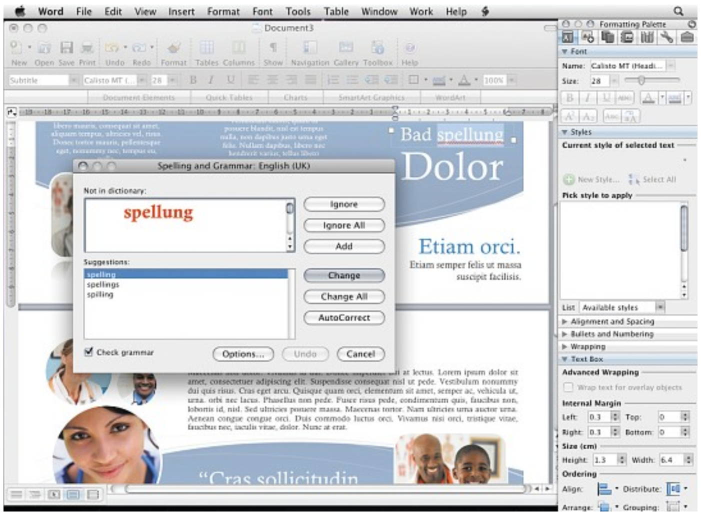
One reason for using a Mac is interface consistency. You expect things to work in a certain way across every application and for common conventions to be adhered to. Microsoft sometimes pays scant regard to such things, but the latest *Word* is an improvement.

On the face of it, *Word* finally looks and feels like a Mac OS X application. A pity, then, that once you get away from the main window, *Word* appears transitionary, with inconsistent dialogs, an ignorance of common Mac shortcuts and a lack of support for built-in services. *OpenOffice.org* sadly apes *Word* in these regards, not least in its inability to use ⌘ and the up and down arrows to jump to the start and end of a document.

Elsewhere, *Mellel* uses Mac OS X conventions and widgets, but presents them in a way that's akin to an unholy union between *iTunes* and *BBEdit*. And of the other three, there's very little between them – *Pages*, *Nisus Writer Pro* and *Scrivener* all show an admirable understanding of Mac conventions, with *Scrivener* fractionally doing so in the most pleasing manner.

RESULTS

Mellel	★★☆☆☆
Microsoft Word	★★★☆☆
Nisus Writer Pro	★★★★★
OpenOffice.org	★★☆☆☆
Pages	★★★★★
Scrivener	★★★★★



The latest *Word* improves its Mac credentials, but full integration still has some way to go.

AND THE WINNER IS | Pages 3.0.2

Two applications fall at the first hurdle in our race for the word processor crown. *Mellel* excels at document structuring and cross-referencing, but it's too idiosyncratic and clunky to recommend, and *OpenOffice.org's* standout property is its lack of a price tag. For a free application, it's mightily impressive, but you get what you pay for.

Next down – and it pains us to say this – is *Scrivener*. To be fair to *Scrivener*, it's not really a word processor and is the odd one out here. Strictly speaking, it's an authoring tool whose output should be sent to a word processor for final layout. Indeed, this is made clear in the software's blurb. So if your needs are purely text-based, it's the best application on test – the relatively low rating is purely down to its lack of layout capabilities and *Office* integration.

Of the final three, *Microsoft Word* is steadily (but slowly) improving. The interface is better aligned with Mac standards, the layout features are improved, its range of templates is decent, and the Home and Student edition of *Office 2008 for Mac* is surprisingly reasonably priced. The problem is that *Nisus Writer Pro* and *Pages* beat it in some key areas.

For pure writing, *Nisus Writer Pro* is the better application, and we wholeheartedly recommend it for such tasks. However, this group test was about a wider range of needs, and for that, *Pages* edges it, with its mix of efficiency, elegance, tools and features. As far as the interface goes, it may have the advantage of being privy to all things Apple, but in the age of the Leopard there's really no excuse for not integrating with Mac OS X.

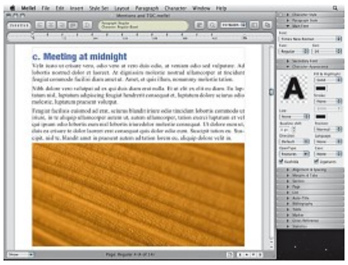
FINAL VERDICT

★★★★☆

Pages edges it, but *Nisus Writer Pro* is a worthy runner-up and *Scrivener* comes recommended for bashing out text before it reaches our top two.

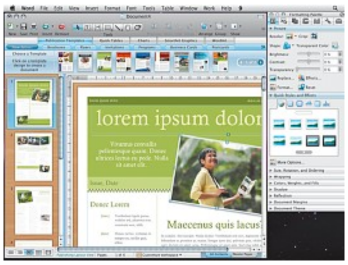
Mac FORMAT Winner

WORD PROCESSORS



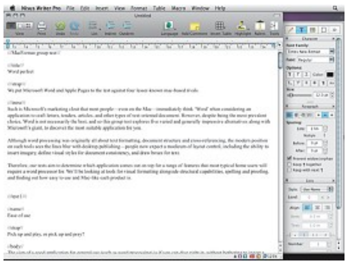
Mellel 2.5

★★½☆☆



Microsoft Word 2008

★★★½☆



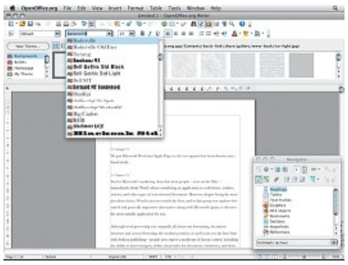
Nisus Writer Pro 1.1

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS

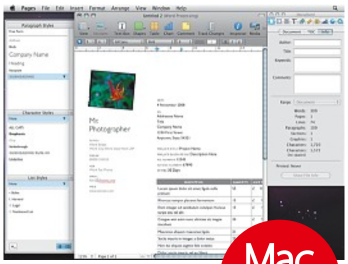
Price	$49 ($79 for 5-licence family pack)	With *Office*: £107 Home & Student (3 licences); £358 full version	$69 ($99 for 3-licence family pack)
Web	www.redlers.com/mellel.html	www.microsoft.com/uk/mac/products/Office2008	www.nisus.com/pro
Minimum OS	Mac OS X 10.2 (10.3 for import/export)	Mac OS X 10.4	Mac OS X 10.3.9
Word support	Poor/DOC only	n/a	Fair
Save/export formats	MELLEL, DOC, RTF, TXT, OPML	DOCX, DOC, DOTX, DOT, RTF, TXT, HTML, PDF, plus *Word* speciality formats	RTF, DOC, RTFD, TXT, HTML, ABW
Built-in template	Yes (few, basic)	Yes (many, advanced)	No
Editable styles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Word count	Live (via Inspector)	Live (via Status bar)	Live (via Drawer)
Spellcheck	System	Proprietary	System
Grammar check	No	Proprietary	No
Outline view	Yes, editable	Yes, editable	Yes, static

WORD PROCESSORS



OpenOffice.org 3

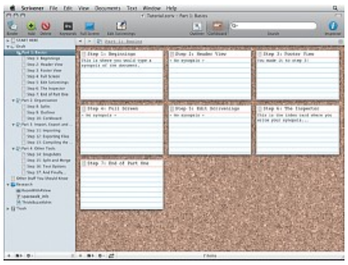
★★★☆☆



Pages 3.0.2

★★★★☆

Mac FORMAT Winner



Scrivener 1.11

★★★½☆

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	Free	With *iWork '08*: £55 (£69 for 5-licence family pack)	$39.95 ($34.99 for student licence)
Web	www.openoffice.org	www.apple.com/uk/iwork	www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.html
Minimum OS	Mac OS X 10.4	Mac OS X 10.4.10	Mac OS X 10.4
Word support	Good	Good	Poor
Save/export formats	ODT, OTT, SXW, STW, DOC, RTF, SDW, VOR, TXT, HTML, PDB, XML, PSW, UOT, HTML, PDF, BOB, TEX	PAGES, PDF, DOC, RTF, TXT, iWeb	SCRIV, RTFD, RTF, DOC, TXT, HTML
Built-in template	No	Yes (many, advanced)	No
Editable styles	Yes	Yes	Yes
Word count	Dialog only	Live (via Inspector)	Live (via Status bar)
Spellcheck	Proprietary	System	System
Grammar check	No	System	System
Outline view	Yes, editable (via Navigator)	No (definable sections only)	No (definable sections only)

★★★★★ Buyers' guide

Sponsored by techradar.com Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

After last month's exciting new MacBook and MacBook Pro releases, it's all been quiet on the new hardware front. The new-look laptops are proving to be popular and there are already rumours that the iMacs could be next in line for an update. But for now, the current line-up offers something for everyone, so turn the page to see them all.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £719 and is great for less intensive work, like the *iLife* apps. The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,399, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 17-inch version and higher-end 15-inch version have more RAM and bigger hard drives, so are great for designers needing that extra power and storage space. The thin MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included; an external SuperDrive will cost you £65.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4

DID YOU KNOW?

The MacBook Air's Multi-Touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*

"All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"

or 2.53GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.53GHz Pros to 2.8GHz for an extra £210. The MacBook and MacBook Air only come with 13-inch screens.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £399 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £499. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £799. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,429, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune.

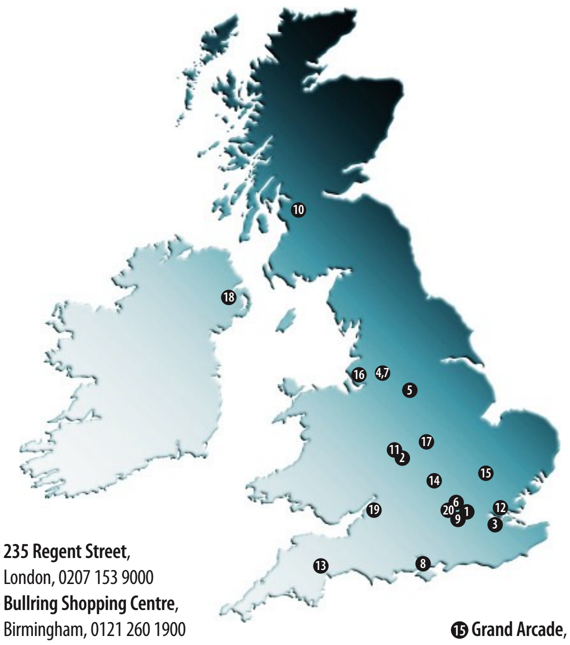
If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's new 24-inch LED Cinema Display for £649 is ideal, or the regular Cinema Displays start from just £399.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '08* software, so you can organise photos, make and store music, build websites and create movies to burn to a DVD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new aluminium MacBooks lack a FireWire port, but you still get one on the cheaper £719 white MacBook

APPLE STORES IN THE UK



❶ **235 Regent Street,**
London, 0207 153 9000

❷ **Bullring Shopping Centre,**
Birmingham, 0121 260 1900

❸ **Bluewater Shopping Centre,**
Greenhithe, Kent,
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❹ **Trafford Centre,**
Manchester, 0161 240 1000

❺ **Meadowhall Shopping Centre,**
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❻ **Brent Cross,**
London, 0208 359 1050

❼ **Arndale Centre,**
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⓬ **Lakeside Shopping Centre,**
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⓭ **24 Princesshay,**
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⓮ **26 Midsummer Place,**
Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650

⓯ **Grand Arcade,**
Cambridge, 01223 253 600

⓰ **Unit 95, Paradise St (West),**
Liverpool, 0151 472 2600

⓱ **Upper Mall, Highcross,**
Leicester, 0116 201 1900

⓲ **1 Victoria Square,**
Belfast, 028 9016 1900

⓳ **11 Philadelphia St,**
Cabot Circus, Bristol,
0117 900 3450

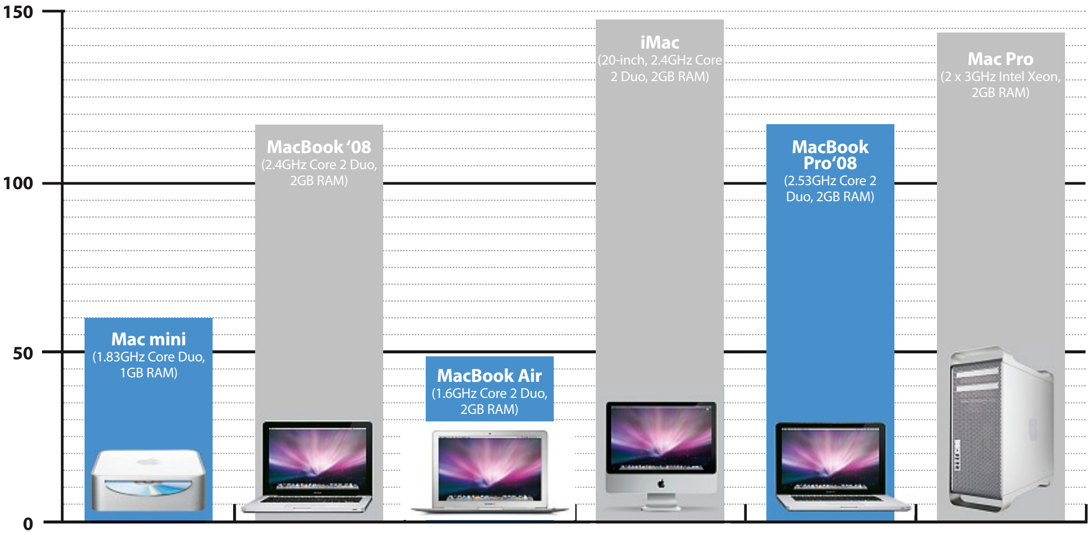
⓴ **Westfield London,**
Ariel Way, London
0208 433 4600

BENCHMARKS | Which Mac is fastest?

We've used Xbench (www.xbench.com) to compare Apple's latest Macs. We've taken its overall score on each Mac as a rough guide to its overall system performance and speed. Please remember that this result is only an indication of the system's overall performance, and doesn't take into account some aspects, such as the improved 3D graphics capabilities of the new aluminium MacBook and the even better 3D graphics performance of the new MacBook Pro.

THE RESULTS (Xbench)

Mac mini	**67**
MacBook	**127.49**
MacBook Air	**49.68**
iMac	**146**
MacBook Pro	**129.1**
Mac Pro	**140.45**



Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE

iMac

Updated April 2008

20-inch 2.4GHz

£799

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

1GB memory

250GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **Great value**

⊖ **Bigger HD would be nice**

20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

2GB memory

320GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

⊕ **2GB memory**

⊖ **Wired mouse and keyboard**

24-inch 2.8GHz

£1,149

2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo

2GB memory

320GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Impressive specification**

⊖ **£34 extra to go wireless**

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,389

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme

2GB memory

500GB hard drive

8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory

Built-in iSight video camera

AirPort Extreme

Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR

Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth*, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

⊕ **Fastest ever iMac**

⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

MacBook Pro

Updated October 2008

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,399

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache

2GB (two SO-DIMMs)

250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA

SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 256MB GDDR3 memory

Precision aluminium unibody

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Great new aluminium body**

⊖ **Screen still small**

15-inch 2.53GHz

£1,749

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels

2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache

4GB (DDR3 SDRAM – 2x2GB)

320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA

SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 512MB GDDR3 memory

Precision aluminium unibody

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Improved HD space and RAM**

⊖ **Upgrade options could cost**

17-inch 2.5GHz

£1,949

17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels

2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache

4GB (2x SO-DIMMs of DDR2 SDRAM)

320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA

SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)

NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory

Aluminium body

OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Good upgrade options**

⊖ **Puts a big dent in the wallet**

Mac Pro

Updated
January
2008

One 2.8GHz Quad
£1,429

One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Great value for money**
⊖ **Could spend loads upgrading**

Two 2.8GHz Quad
£1,749

Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Great configuration options**
⊖ **Upgrade options tempting**

Two 3GHz Quad
£2,249

Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **Two 3GHz Quad processors!**
⊖ **Too many upgrade choices?**

Two 3.2GHz Quad
£2,758.99

Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

⊕ **The fastest Mac ever**
⊖ **Do you really need it?**

Mac mini

Updated
August
2007

1.83GHz 80GB
£399

1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
80GB hard drive
2MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ **Excellent value for money**
⊖ **Poor for 3D graphics**

2.0GHz 120GB
£499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
120GB hard drive
4MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, *iLife '08*, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

⊕ **More hard drive space**
⊖ **Still not ideal for gamers**

MacBook Air

Updated
October
2008

13-inch 1.6GHz
£1,299

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Thintastic!**
⊖ **SuperDrive is an extra £65**

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,799

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
128GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

⊕ **Great lower price!**
⊖ **Still needs extras**

MacBook

Updated
October
2008

13-inch white 2.1GHz
£719

13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels
2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
1GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Great value**
⊖ **Could use more RAM**

13-inch 2.0GHz
£949

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Stunning new look**
⊖ **No FireWire port**

13-inch 2.4GHz
£1,149

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

⊕ **Illuminated keyboard**
⊖ **MacBook Pro only £250 more**

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

> "The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your *iTunes* window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices, esecially now that Apple has announced new prices and new looks.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

The best compromise is the new-look iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5 inch diagonal screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the improved 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient for many. The choice of colour now is vast, and there's defintitely a nano for everyone. These are going to be big sellers!

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%

iPod classic

Updated September 2008

iPod classic 120GB

£179

Up to 30,000 songs

Up to 25,000 photos

Up to 150 hours of video

Available in black and silver

2.5-inch screen

320x240 pixels

Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)

Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)

103.5x61.8x10.5mm

140g

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2008

iPod shuffle 1GB

£32

Up to 240 songs

No ability to display photos or videos

Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED

No screen

Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)

27.3x41.2x10.5mm

15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB

£45

Up to 500 songs

No ability to display photos or videos

Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED

No screen

Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)

27.3x41.2x10.5mm

15.6g

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

iPod touch 8GB
£169
Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB
£219
Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB
£289
Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod nano

Updated September 2008

iPod nano 8GB
£109
Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB
£149
Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPhone 3G

Updated June 2008

iPhone 3G 8GB
From £FREE + contract
Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB
From £FREE + contract
Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences .

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's (admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOP GEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

CONTENTS

116 Keyboards & mice
Printers
Displays
Scanners/All-in-ones
117 Digital cameras
Digital video cameras
Routers/networking
Storage
118 Speakers
Digital music players
iPod accessories
VoIP phones
119 Home office
Visual tools and layout
Games
Multimedia software

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★

ISSUE 187

Price: £29
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
- May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
- Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

★★★★★

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth

+ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
- Odd acceleration behaviour

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP6600D ★★★★★

ISSUE 174

Price: £87
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53946
Key specs: Thermal inkjet; A4 prints; 9,600x2,400dpi; six-ink printing; duplex printing; DVD/CD label printing; memory card readers; PictBridge socket

+ Large LCD display; twin paper sources; DVD/CD label printing; duplex printing
- Slight fuzz on black text; slow compared to non-photo printers

"The iP6600D is a versatile printer giving quality prints, with more bells and whistles than a Morris-dancing troupe of football refs."

HP Photosmart A618

★★★★★

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: 3-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi

+ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
- Bit slow

Canon PIXMA iP100

★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; USB 2.0; Bluetooth

+ Compact; excellent results; strong build
- Lack of camera card slots

DISPLAYS

Apple 23-inch Cinema Display ★★★★★

ISSUE 152

Price: £599
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 23-inch (viewable), Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible

+ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
- No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with this 23-inch Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."

Eizo FlexScan S2110W

★★★★★

Price: £505 **Reviewed:** Issue 182
Full review: www.techradar.com/48701
Key specs: 1,680x1,050 res; 2x digital DVI, USB2.0

+ Smart features; brilliant picture; easy to use
- Expensive

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

★★★★★

Price: £698 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res

+ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
- Need a lot of room to house it!

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon CanoScan 8600F ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £149
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225903
Key specs: Charge Coupled Device; A4 max print size; document/film scanner; FARE level 3 scratch removal, 7x EZ buttons; Adobe *Photoshop Elements 4; LaserFast SE; ScanGear CS*

+ Excellent software bundle; produces speedy scans; good quality results
- Quite bulky

"It's fast, versatile, not too expensive and comes with a very impressive bundle of software. This is the best scanner by far."

Canon PIXMA MP610

★★★★★

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi

+ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
- Slow duplex printing

Canon PIXMA MX700

★★★★½

Price: £131 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR

+ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
- No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★

Mac
The Ultimate Mac Survival Guide

ISSUE 197

Price: £138
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

⊕ Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."

★★★★★

Canon EOS 40D

Price: £799 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

⊕ Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
⊖ Some idiosyncratic functions

★★★★½

Pentax Optio M50

Price: £132 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

⊕ Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
⊖ Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station ★★★★★

Mac
iLife masterclass

ISSUE 181

Price: £119
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."

★★★★★

Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N

Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

⊕ Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
⊖ Not the best looking device

★★★★★

Apple AirPort Express

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes is great; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

JVC GR-DF470EK ★★★★★

Mac
CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

ISSUE 176

Price: £264
Web: www.jvc.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/72721
Key specs: 15x optical zoom, 700x digital zoom; 2.5-inch LCD; 2.6-39mm focal length; MiniDV media – 8MB card supplied; mic socket; remote; 400g; 75x111x74mm

⊕ Solid build; great value for money; lots of features
⊖ May need to keep manual at hand

"It's packed with features and built to last. The JVC GR-DF470EK is a quality camera at a staggeringly affordable price."

★★★★½

Canon HV30

Price: £603 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD; fast imports
⊖ Cumbersome to use

★★★★½

Canon HG10

Price: £670 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

⊕ Superb images; native support for *iMovie '08*
⊖ Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★

Mac
100 Mac solutions

ISSUE 182

Price: £158
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; *Dantz Retrospect* backup software; FireWire 400 cable

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

★★★★★

Western Digital My Book Pro

Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 173
Full review: www.techradar.com/47284
Key specs: 500GB capacity; FireWire 400/800/USB 2.0

⊕ Slim build; lightweight; elegant; brushed metal
⊖ Too delicate for some people's tastes

★★★★☆

Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4

Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

⊕ Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
⊖ Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY...

a mouse

1 WIRELESS OR WIRED??
A wireless mouse has the advantage of freeing your desktop from cable clutter, but a good old-fashioned USB mouse is a simpler solution. With a wireless mouse you'll need to replace the batteries from time to time, and you get the occasional signal cut-out if your USB dongle comes loose or isn't recognised for some reason.

2 FEATURES
At a basic level you need a left button, a right button and a scroll wheel that also clicks. More buttons than this are usually available, but will you make use of them?

3 SLIM BUILD
If you're going to travel with your mouse, you'll need a small travel mouse. Apple's standard Mighty Mouse is reasonably chunky, but Belkin does a good range of smaller mice.

4 PRICE TAG
Apple's Mighty Mouse is quite pricey at £35, so you should be looking at something cheaper from third parties.

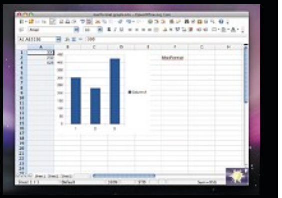
5 COMPATIBILTY
A lot of mice will work at a basic level when connected to a Mac but insist on having their own software driver installed before you can make use of the extra buttons; often this is Windows-only. If it doesn't say 'Mac compatible' on the box, avoid it.

Editor's choice

Where Graham's cash is heading…

OpenOffice.org 3

Price £FREE
Manufacturer OpenOffice.org
Web www.openoffice.org



Maybe it's because my pockets are empty after my new MacBook purchase last month (not that I regret it, of course!), or maybe it's just because I'm a skinflint, but the free *OpenOffice.org* deserves the Editor's Choice award this month.

When it comes to free software, it's often wise to lower your expectations, but *OpenOffice.org* really over-delivers. I find it's perfectly adequate for what I need; I can use *Writer* for writing reviews and features, because it includes the essential word count feature that's beloved of every journalist in the land. *Calc*, the spreadsheet app, seems more than capable of opening the *Excel* files that come my way. I use *Keynote* for presentations, though, so I haven't ventured into the presentation program, *Impress*, nor will I ever need to. And, of course, now it's fully native for OS X it works like a dream.

Sure, *OpenOffice.org* doesn't have the beautiful presentation of *iWork*, or the rock-solid feature-set of Microsoft *Office*, but considering that it doesn't cost anything, I'm sold!

"Covers all your office needs without costing a penny! Well worth considering."

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★

ISSUE 186

Price: £395
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

+ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
– Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Acoustic Energy Aego-M

★★★★★

Price: £130 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/100419
Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

+ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
– Not many extra features

Dynaudio MC15

★★★★★

Price: £736 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458611
Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS

+ Excellent sound; good design and bulid; easy setup
– Expensive

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: 8GB, £99; 16GB, £149
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/464874
Key specs: Silver, black, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink and PRODUCT (RED); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 4hrs video; 90.7x38.7x2mm; 36.8kg

+ Looks fab; great prices and capacities; vertical screen works well; accelerometer
– No charging via FireWire

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone. The available array of colours with this version are gorgeous, too!"

Apple iPod classic

★★★★½

Price: £179 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/226641
Key specs: 120GB; black or silver; video playback

+ Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
– Must re-buy purchased games

Apple iPod touch

★★★★½

Price: From £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/464926
Key specs: 8,16 and 32GB available; WiFi browsing

+ Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
– Not cheap!

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Gear4 BluEye ★★★★★

ISSUE 178

Price: £50
Web: www.gear4.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/226518
Key specs: For fourth- and fifth-gen iPods, iPod mini and iPod nano

+ Answer calls by remote; great sound quality; voice-activated dialling
– Nothing at all

"Quite possibly the best iPod accessory we've ever seen. It really is that good and deserves the accolade. Buy one now!"

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

Price: £92 **Reviewed:** Issue 193
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: 10m range; easy USB connection

+ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
– High price

Macally TunePro Flat Panel

★★★★★

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

+ Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
– Remote sold separately

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★

ISSUE 200

Price: £230
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

+ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
– Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product –and that's before you've added a USB interface."

Line 6 Pocket Pod

★★★★★

Price: £57 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/457821
Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack

+ Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
– Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions

Imono HI-2503

★★★★★

Price: £17 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0

+ Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
– No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★

ISSUE 195

Price: £70
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; *QuickTime 7* or higher

+ Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
– Expensive upgrade

"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."

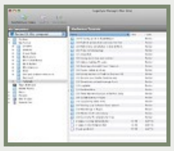
Scrivener 1.0

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

+ Reliable; great for writers; top export options
– Nothing

Sharpcast SugarSync


★★★★½

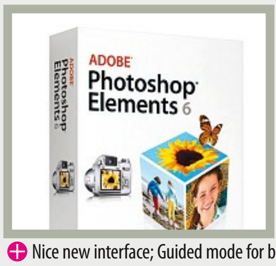
Price: From $29 (£16) **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/469148
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4; 512MB RAM

+ Access files when Mac is off; fast after initial upload
– No file versioning; no entry-level free version

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★

ISSUE 194



Price: £58
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive

+ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
– Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

Lemke Software GraphicConverter 6.0

★★★★★

Price: $35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

+ Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
– Could do with a visual facelift

Softpress Freeway Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X10.4.11+

+ Improved performance; great new Actions
– Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

GAMES

Spore ★★★★★

ISSUE 201

Price: £40
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1.024MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Interl Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space for installation

+ Great looks; design your world; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
– Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment."

Enemy Territory: Quake Wars

★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: Intel Core 2 Duo; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.5.1

+ Objective-based gameplay; meaty weapons
– Looks bland in places

Sid Meier's Pirates!

★★★★★

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: PPC/Intel 1.6GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4

+ Atmospheric looks; lots of setup options; sea battling
– Nothing. It's great!

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

ISSUE 189

Price: £319
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; *QuickTime 7.2* or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive

+ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
– Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Plasq Doozla 1.1

★★★★★

Price: $25 (£13) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

+ Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
– Nothing at all

Apple iTunes 8

★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551
System reqs: Intel/PPC G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9

+ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
– Genius recommendations affect performance

Review your options

Keep up to date with the newest Mac products

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Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

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www.bbmug.co.uk

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www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
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CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
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Nottingham
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[17] Kent & East Sussex MUG
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http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

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www.3cmug.co.uk

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26
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16
13

MUG OF THE MONTH

Wessex Apple MUGs

The Wessex Apple Mac User Group is something of a network umbrella name for a number of local area meeting groups of Mac users in the West Country and beyond. The group was formed on 14 March 2004 from the original DMUG (Dorset Mac User Group) to incorporate Mac users from a far wider area, and it seems to be going from strength to strength.

A quick look at the calendar on the website, **www.wamug.org.uk**, reveals an active meeting schedule. For instance, in November they had meetings booked in Salisbury, Bournemouth and Dorchester!

Each of the local meetings are different, but you can get a full rundown of what is scheduled on the website. For example, in Fareham the meetings have a structured approach, with tables laid out in a 'U' shape on which members put their Macs. There's even a break for refreshments, which includes their famous doughnuts, and a lot of chat! In Salisbury, meetings always start with an open session where members can ask the assembled crowd about any problems or issues they may have.

There's lots going on with the WAMUG, so if you live in the area then pop along to a local meeting and get involved. Membership is £20 per annum and there's a membership form you can complete on the website. It's a great way to learn more about your Mac and have a good time. ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. **To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org**

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Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

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SNIPPETS

Yet more Spore

The first of, inevitably, dozens of *Spore* expansions is on its way. In fact, it should be downloadable from GameTree Online by the time you read this. *Creepy and Cute* is not so much an expansion pack as a big clown's suitcase full of spare red noses, twirling bow ties and grease paint. There are 60 new body parts that can be utilised to make your creature either creepy, cute, or a combination of the two. There are also some new paint styles and a handful of (no doubt) amusing animations.

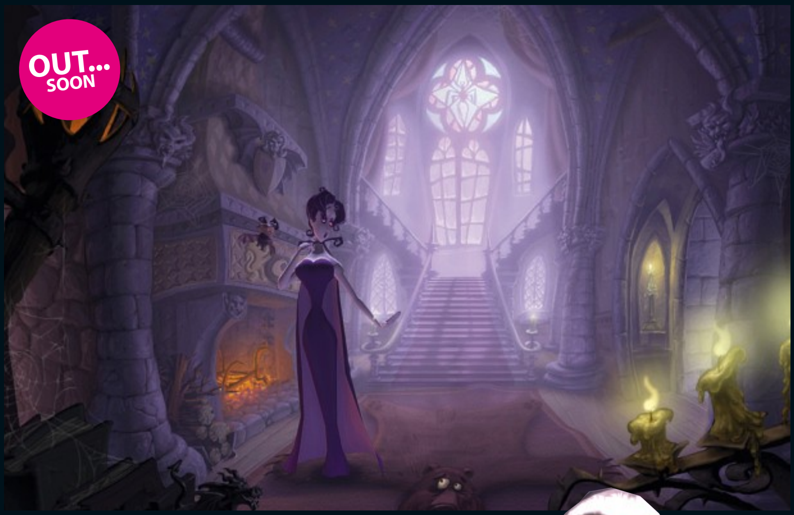
Men in tights

City of Heroes, the online multiplayer (and massive) game featuring superheroes is coming to Mac this Christmas. Scoot over to GameTree Online and you can pre-order the software that enables you to don tights and a face mask and make like Spidey, Batters, Supes, Captain Marvel or any number of other mental-looking do-gooders (or indeed do-badders, if that takes your fancy). The Mac edition will include bonus features, such as a Mission Teleport option and additional costume sets.

POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE

A Vampyre Story

What's a vampire's favourite fruit? Neck-tarine…



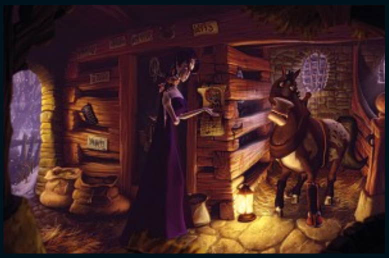
OUT... SOON

A *Vampyre Story* – an all new point-and-click adventure winging its way to Macs in a few weeks – is the brainchild of Bill Tiller, who was once a background artist on LucasArts' *The Curse of Monkey Island* and Steven Spielberg's *The Dig*. Indeed, much is made of Bill's involvement in these projects and while such shameless name-dropping won't guarantee a decent game, we can at least be confident that *A Vampyre Story* will a) look good, and b) have the creative input of someone who's been intimately involved in the creation of iconic adventure games.

The usual set-up of the point-and-click adventure is that of a hapless hero who sets off on an adventure in order to find fame, fortune and possibly a few answers as to his or her shady past. Here though, the protagonist is a former opera singer called Mona, who has been captured and imprisoned by a vampire named Shrowdy Von Kiefer, who turns poor Mona into one of his own kind.

> "In her determination to get back among the living, Mona calls on the help of Froderick, a bat"

When Shrowdy fails to return from a midnight sojourn, Mona sees her opportunity to escape Shrowdy's spooky castle and make her way back from Draxsylvania to Paris, where she can resume her operatic singing career. In her determination to get back among the living, Mona calls on the help of Froderick, a bat, who is both cheeky and often at odds with Mona, but who nevertheless forms a close bond with the story's heroine and helps her pursue her dream.



But what of Shrowdy? Mona's captor is in fact a sad figure who dotes on her, creating an operatic stage in his castle and attempting to keep Mona there by plying her with his 'special wine' each evening. What part is he to play in her future?

Mona's adventure takes place across more than 30 locations featuring a combination of 2D animation and 3D environments. She also encounters over 25 characters and must learn how her vampiric abilities can both restrict her progress and work to her advantage.

A Vampyre Story is out soon, and we'll have a review when it wings its way to us.

ACTION ADVENTURE

Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones

$30 (£19) The Iranian royal's adventure reaches an epic finale

CONTACT INFO

Developer Ubisoft
www.ubisoft.com
Vendor GameTree Online
www.gametreeonline.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo Processor, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 Tiger / Mac OS X 10.5.5 Leopard, ATI X1600, NVIDIA 7300 GT or X3100 Intel integrated graphics chip (Intel GMA950 not supported), 1.6GB hard drive

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Atmospheric visuals
- ⊕ A great story
- ⊕ Superb control
- ⊕ Good mix of fighting and puzzling
- ⊖ Comparatively basic graphics
- ⊖ Repetitive combat

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A fitting end to the trilogy, and a great game even if you haven't played the others."

Let's lay our slightly dog-eared cards on the table here. If you're a former PC owner who has recently switched to Mac, your perception of the current state of Mac gaming is going to be pretty skewed toward the negative. The bald fact is that us Mac gamers get games, by and large, a couple of years later than our PC-owning brethren and when we do finally get them the games are never quite as well ported as we'd like.

That's changing though, mainly thanks to new porting technology that makes porting easier, and we can now look forward to Mac ports following hot on the heels of any PC releases. However, there are occasions when we should welcome ports of older titles with open arms and *Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones* is an excellent example of this. The graphics might be creaking a bit but a good game is a good game, and this one's a cracker.

As usual, rush-hour presented a number of traffic-related incidents.

Back to Babylon

In this latest chapter, the Prince is returning to his home town of Babylon with the now mortal Kaileena. All seems relatively stress-free until they complete their journey, only to find Babylon under siege. An attack on the Prince's boat results in Kaileena getting kidnapped.

Bounce off the wall to surprise old Captain Beaky here.

> "As well as his running abilities, the Prince can roll under low objects and leap from pole to pole"

It turns out the Vizier is up to his old tricks and the Prince is once more pitted against the forces of rottenness.

Visually, *The Two Thrones* is not so much disappointing as underwhelming, technically at least. This is clearly a game designed several years ago, with character models whose limbs are more angular than we've become used to and scenery textures that lack the realism our eyes are now routinely treated to. Nevertheless, thanks to the exotic locations and the care with which they have been created, the game still looks beautiful, and its looks, combined with the equally intoxicating sounds, make for a very atmospheric adventure.

When the *Sands of Time* trilogy began, it was the control system that was the first game's unique selling point. Previous platform adventures – bar *Tomb Raider* – while delivering some nice puzzle-solving action, were always hampered by their shockingly clunky control systems. *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time* changed all that, and this third instalment plays just as well as the previous game. Apart from his running abilities, the Prince can roll under low objects, leap from pole to pole, run along walls for a short distance and use his dagger to slide down huge drapes in a truly swashbuckling fashion.

In combat, besides using hand weapons in some slick and balletic button-bashing action, he can also utilise stealth kills. Approach an enemy unseen and time your attacks to take the enemy out quickly and efficiently. Get it wrong and you'll have to face him in regular combat. It's a good system and goes some way to alleviating the potential problem of having too numerous and repetitive combat encounters.

There's also the prince's dark side to contend with. In *The Two Thrones*, the Prince finds himself regularly switching between his usual self and his dark side, and with the change comes a significant shift in gameplay and abilities. Unfortunately, while he becomes far more powerful in combat, he also becomes reliant on constantly topping up his health by collecting sand after killing enemies, which makes combat easier, but navigating the platforming section within a limited time much harder.

Acrobatics and battles

Otherwise it's business as usual, with the wonderfully fluid gameplay of the previous games successfully recreated. The mix of acrobatic platform puzzling, frequent combat, chariot battles and boss encounters make for a potent mix.

If you've played the game before on another system it's not worth revisiting, but if this is your first experience of the Prince's adventures, it really is a no-brainer.

RACING

ToCA Race Driver 3

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CONTACT INFO

Developer Codemasters
www.codemasters.co.uk
Vendor Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel 1.8GHz processor, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.8, 128MB VRAM, 8.5GB free hard drive space, Intel GMA graphics processors not supported (Intel Mac minis and MacBooks)

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Loads of cars
- ⊕ Loads of circuits
- ⊕ Loads of racing classes
- ⊕ Bonus classes
- ⊕ Amusing boost options
- ⊖ Looks a bit basic

VERDICT

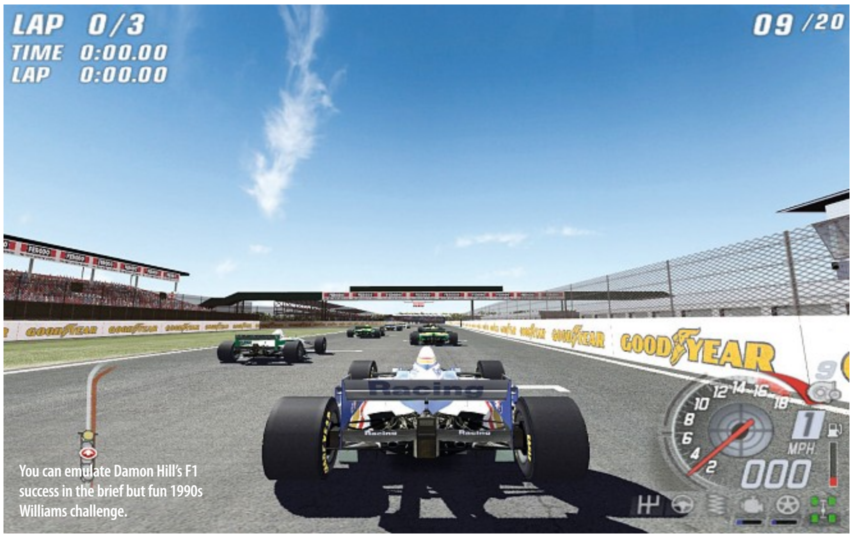
★★★★☆

"An excellent racing game for those who like motor sport in general. Average looks, but a huge breadth of racing styles."

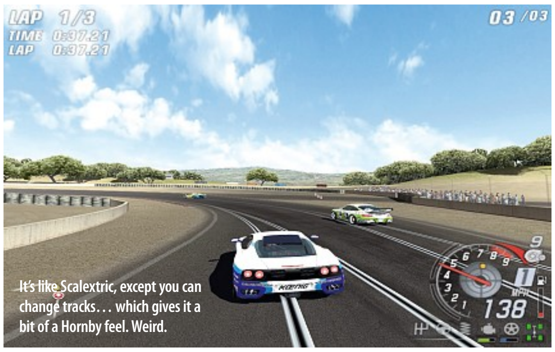
Perhaps you want to recreate, as realistically as possible, Lewis Hamilton's last-gasp championship win, or maybe you're looking for a cutting-edge racer that visually gives the current crop of consoles a run for their money; or indeed, you may want a simulation that perfectly replicates every technical detail and handling nuance of a major racing discipline. Well, *ToCA Race Driver 3* is miles away from all of your desires. If, on the other hand, you fancy a game (and be in no doubt, this is more game than simulation) that provides you with the opportunity to hammer around various world-famous circuits in a mind-bogglingly diverse range of vehicles and racing classes, old and new, then *ToCA 3* can't be recommended highly enough.

Bland looks

The game's no looker, mind. The scenery is pretty sparse throughout and the car models are fairly ordinary when compared with the likes of the *Burnout* series of games on consoles, and indeed *FlatOut 2* on Mac (reviewed last issue). But that said, given the range of racing venues and vehicles available, it doesn't look too bad at all, and there's enough detail in the environments (including trackside objects and relevant product placement) to ensure that the various circuits vaguely resemble their real-life counterparts at the very least.



You can emulate Damon Hill's F1 success in the brief but fun 1990s Williams challenge.



It's like Scalextric, except you can change tracks… which gives it a bit of a Hornby feel. Weird.

> "Go for the Off Road series, in which you can bump and slide around in Baja Buggies or an MG Rally car"

Where *ToCA 3* scores most highly is in the sheer range of racing options available. There are only two major modes of play: World Tour, a tiered series of races covering most of the included disciplines, and Pro Career, which groups the challenges into different racing classes. But within these options there's a startling range of challenges facing would-be racers and an even greater range of vehicles to choose from.

There are eight basic racing classes to get to grips with, upping *ToCA*'s longevity stakes from the off. Old farts can dive straight into the Classics tournament and experience the nostalgic joy of driving a whole range of old and not-so-old motors from various key points in motor racing history. Included in the line-up of 13 race types is a Vintage 1930s Grand Prix, a 60s GT race, a Silver Arrows Grand Prix, a classic Rally challenge and you can even emulate Damon Hill's successes by racing a white-and-blue 1990s Williams Formula One car.

Exciting stuff. But it gets better. You can also take the wheel of a classic Caterham in the GT series; or perhaps wrestle with the bizarre handling of a Sprint car in the Oval series, as well as going for all-out speed in a full-throttle Indycar race.

Fancy something a little more rough and ready? Then go for the Off Road series, in which you can bump and slide around in Baja Buggies or an MG Rally car, among many other racing rarities.

Grass cutters

If this all sounds too conventional, however, go for the Honda series, and as well as zipping along in the sublime S2000, NSX or the latest Civic, you can also try your hand at racing lawnmowers. Don't laugh. These are race-tuned lawnmowers and provide a faster, more exhilarating challenge than you might ordinarily expect.

Apart from lawnmower racing, which I'm assured is serious stuff, two things reinforce the fact that this isn't actually a serious racer. First, there are some truly ridiculous boost bonuses available. In the real world a boost might involve hitting a turbo button and finding yourself sailing past a nearby opponent courtesy of a brief increase in speed. *ToCA 3*'s more elaborate boosts see your car rising a full 20 feet into the air and rocketing over the top of your nearest rivals. In addition to that, there's a highly amusing Toy series of races in which you can control RC cars and Scalextric-style slot cars. It's full of fun – and quite challenging.

In the end, *ToCA 3*'s very premise is both its biggest weakness and its greatest strength, insofar as players who like to become skilled at a single racing discipline will find it a sprawling mess; yet at the same time, if slavish attention to a single type of racing is a tiresome prospect, *ToCA 3*'s scatter-gun approach keeps the racing completely fresh and fun throughout the duration of its massive Tour and Career modes. This is a great racing game for those who like motor sport in general rather than one class of racing in particular.

PINBALL GAME

Dream Pinball 3D

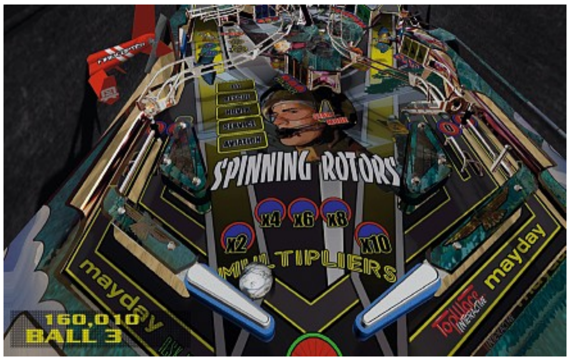
£20 It's pinball, but not quite as we know and love it

Pinball games are few and far between on the Mac platform, so any new release involving balls, bells and flippers has to be welcomed, although in the case of *Dream Pinball 3D*, the welcome is a cautious one.

On paper it's a doozy. There are six elaborate tables with multiple flippers, bumpers, slingshots, multiballs, multipliers and the like. And the tables, while not something you'll find in any pub or arcade, pretty closely resemble a number of classic pinball setups. When playing through the various machines you'll find yourself recognising certain features as being inspired by Williams' classics, such as *Terminator 2*, *Fish Tales* and their ilk.

The variety between the tables is also to be applauded. The prehistoric-themed Dino Wars is a bit dull, but it's probably the one runt of the litter. The others are nicely balanced and include: the aquatic table (a sparsely decorated yet endlessly enjoyable table for novices to have a bit of fun with); the horror-themed table Monsters, a much more cluttered affair but full of nice little touches; and the Knight's Tournament, a 'knightmare' challenge with its wide open spaces making ball rescue extremely difficult.

There are two things that hamstring this potentially great game, though. First, it's a bit unstable. We had some irritating graphical glitches occurring on both the MacBook and iMac we tested it on, including the score window regularly corrupting. And when push comes to shove, it's all a bit uninvolving. It looks like a great pinball game and it makes all the right noises. But somehow, it just doesn't 'feel' right. It's hard to define precisely what's wrong, but the developers have fallen short of recreating the tactility of a ball hitting a flipper. It's not the pinballing travesty some reviewers have painted it to be, however.



The Spinning Rotors table enables you to thwack your balls against your chopper. Oh, please…

CONTACT INFO

Developer RuneSoft
www.rune-soft.com
Vendor Deliver2Mac
www.deliver2mac.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel 1.66GHz processor, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11, ATI X1600 or GeForce 7300 graphics card, 64MB VRAM

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Good(ish) looks
- + Six tables
- + All the usual pinball features
- + Nicely balanced skill levels
- – Ball physics are lacking
- – A few glitches

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Lacks the feel that would make it a 'sim' experience. Worth a look, though."

POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE

CSI 4: Hard Evidence

$20 (£13) Fiddling around with dead bodies has never been so mundane

Looking back over this series of releases on consoles and PCs, it becomes apparent that *CSI* has been notable by its mediocrity throughout its first three iterations. And nothing has changed for this fourth helping of grisly forensic rummaging. *CSI 4: Hard Evidence* is every bit as flawed as its predecessors, but once again has an irritating little kernel of addictiveness somewhere at its heart.

Despite most locations being fairly static, the detail level of the environments and objects is disappointingly low. Worse is the lumbering pace at which the game plays, mostly thanks to irksome loading times between almost every action taken.

Working your way around the process of evidence gathering is somewhat tortuous. Mucking about with forensic gadgets is fun, and examining pieces of evidence in order to discover minutely important details is amusing. But having to perform three-directional clicks to simply access a computer or spending several minutes figuring out how to reach a clue that's in plain view is dead tiresome.

Even so, the awkward procedural stuff remains engaging, thanks in no small part to some tight scripting. Physically gathering evidence might be a pain, but the payoff is a fresh insight into the crime or the opportunity to question a suspect who has been slow in coming forward. Fans of the TV show will, of course, love it. For the rest of you, while we can't really recommend *CSI 4* on the basis of being a well-constructed game, it would be remiss of us not to mention that we kept coming back for more in spite of our reservations. One last warning is in order, however: it's not a game for youngsters.

The interrogation room. Unfortunately you can't beat up the perp, so it's not very realistic.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Telltale Games
www.telltalegames.com
Vendor GameTree Online
www.gametreeonline.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel CPU, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 / 10.5.4, ATI X1600, NVIDIA 7300 GT or Intel integrated graphics chip

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Good storylines
- + Fun gadgets
- + Good TV tie-in
- + Basic visuals
- – Clunky interface
- – Slow loading times

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A badly programmed game, but the writing is good and the premise is interesting enough."

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MacDisc
Revolution Media 3.0

Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

DISC PROBLEMS?

If you're having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our reader support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support**, where you'll find solutions to many commonly reported problems. If you still have problems, email our reader support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** or call 01225 442 244 and ask for coverdisc support.

We can only provide support for software installation. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We're unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

MacDisc
FORMAT
Issue 203 | January 2009
DVD
3 FULL PROGRAMS
Revolution Media 3.0
macVCR 1.0
PLUS:

FEATURED SOFTWARE

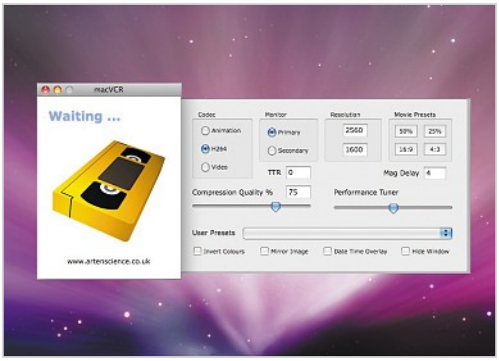
Screen recorder, software creator and document manager

AS SOLD FOR £21

macVCR 1

The perfect screen recording application

It's widely recognised that classroom-based learning is superior to simply being educated through reading. Video tutorials offer a way of teaching not overly dissimilar from that of the classroom. So, in the future, rather than type a long text file explaining the use of an application, why not create a video training movie? With this full product you can record actions on-screen and then export them to a *QuickTime* movie. Requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.


macVCR
Waiting ...
www.artenscience.co.uk
Codec
Monitor
Resolution
Movie Presets
50%
25%
16:9
4:3
User Presets
Invert Colours
Mirror Image
Date Time Overlay
Hide Window

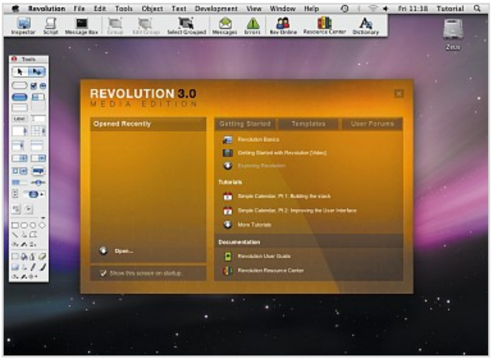
Codec: ○ Animation ● H264 ○ Video
Monitor: ● Primary ○ Secondary
Resolution: 2560 1600
TTR: 0
Mag Delay: 4
Compression Quality %: 75

AS SOLD FOR £25

Revolution Media 3.0

Write your own Mac programs with ease

Programming needn't be laborious, which is why Runtime Revolution created *Revolution Media*. It's aimed at being a fun and creative software construction kit. With it you have the ability of building exciting games and constructing a compelling multimedia experience through the drag and drop interface and simple scripting language. Turn to page 64 for our tutorial on using a number of the features found in this full product. You need Mac OS X 10.27 or later to run this software.

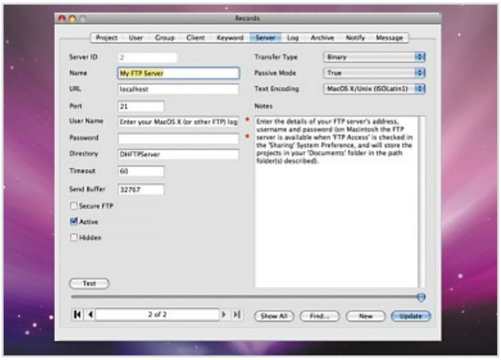

Revolution
File
Edit
Tools
Object
Text
Development
View
Window
Help
Tutorial
REVOLUTION 3.0
MEDIA EDITION
Opened Recently
Getting Started
Templates
User Forums
Tutorials
Documentation
Open...
Show this screen on startup

AS SOLD FOR £13

DocHaven 2.0

Manage your documents while away from your desk

DocHaven is described as being like a virtual library to store your files – it saves the last ten versions of a document in case you want to revert to an older version. *DocHaven* can run on one computer, over a LAN and now over The Cloud, so you can always connect to a mobile server. In addition it includes *CashHaven* for cashless purchases and returns, *TwitHaven* for messaging between users, and *CRMHaven* for sharing contact details. Requires Mac OS X 10.3 or later.


Records
Project
User
Group
Client
Keyword
Server
Log
Archive
Notify
Message
Test
2 of 2
Show All
Find...
New
Update

Server ID: 2
Name: My FTP Server
URL: localhost
Port: 21
User Name: Enter your MacOS X (or other FTP) log
Password:
Directory: DHFTPServer
Timeout: 60
Send Buffer: 32767
☐ Secure FTP
☑ Active
☐ Hidden
Transfer Type: Binary
Passive Mode: True
Text Encoding: MacOS X/Unix (ISOLatin1)
Notes: Enter the details of your FTP server's address, username and password (on Macintosh the FTP server is available when 'FTP Access' is checked in the 'Sharing' System Preference, and will store the projects in your 'Documents' folder in the path folder(s) described).

ToCA RACE DRIVER 3

Developed and published by Codemasters, then brought to the Mac by Feral Interactive, *ToCA* is probably the most recognised racing game around. With a number of different gameplay modes, this latest incarnation definitely has enough play in it to keep you enthralled for a long period of time. Our pick is the pro-career mode that gives you the chance to master one individual motorsport formula at a time. You select a motor-racing discipline and then play through each championship, all the while abiding by the full race rules, calendar, flags etc. On the disc this issue is a demo that exposes you to both the DTM and Australian V8 supercars. Be sure to check next issue for another *ToCA* demo.

ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!

SONIK TONIK
sonik tonik's
PHONIC FOOD
VOLUME TWO

RESOURCES

Royalty-free music

16 great tracks for your use

Not all music has usage rights bolted with them, these royalty-free tunes are easier to use in your projects. You can use them as soundtracks to slideshows or homemade movies.

RIGHTEOUS KILL
Clues to find

GAME DEMO

Righteous Kill

Crime scene investigation gaming

This game was inspired by the first movie to feature the De Niro and Pacino pairing since Michael Mann's *Heat* in the mid 1990s. You play Erica Dean as she hunts for a vigilante on a killing spree.

Happy Halloween!
HAPPY NEW

RESOURCE

Mail templates

Add some jazz to your email

Sometimes you want to send an email with a bit more pizzazz to it then simple text. This set of ten templates from Jumsoft is free for you to use in the OS X mail client to liven up emails.

DockChanger
2D Dock
3D Dock
Restore Dock
Apply Changes
Current Dock
Theme
Carrot Patch
Application/Document Separator
carbonChrome
Active App Indicator
Carrot Patch
Preview of new Dock

Choose your theme, tweak your settings and click "Apply Changes"

You can always go back to the default by clicking 'Restore Dock' in the toolbar

SOFTWARE DEMO

DockChanger 1.7.3

Hack your edition of OS X

If you're not too keen on the look of Leopard's Dock, then use this app to change it from 2D to 3D and back again. There are several themes on offer so you can regularly doctor your Dock.

BBC WORLD SERVICE
All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
This Week
The Interview
4
MacFormat – This Week (Enhanced)

PODCAST

MacFormat This Week

Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, why not listen to our 30-minute broadcasts from the 27 October and 11 November? Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.

SOFTWARE DEMO

Pagico 3.2.1.95b

Get yourself organised

Pagico is a handy little application that enables you to jot down notes, images, hyperlinks and other content and save them to a centralised, personal knowledge base.

DISC CONTENTS

Full apps, shareware, game demos and more

FULL SOFTWARE

DocHaven 2.0
macVCR 1
Revolution Media 3.0

IN THE MAG

Cover feature

macam 0.9.2
MacTracker X 5.0.4

Reviews

Bento 2.0v2
Billings 3.0.3
CoverScout 3.0.1
Flock 2.0
Funtastic Photos 1.0.1
OpenOffice.org 3.0
Yuuguu 3.4

Shareware reviews

A-Dock X 1.5.1
BigBen 2.0.6
Dock Spaces 2.10
GimmeSomeTune 4.2
HimmelBar 3.0b64
WindowShade X 4.2

Tutorials

DockStar 2.1
Letterbox 0.22b
Mail Act-On 2.0.1
Mail.appetizer 1.3b1
MailTags 2.2.1
MiniMail 1.1.1
SpamSieve 2.7.2
TinkerTool 3.91
hiddenfiles 2.0
Queen Izabellas Adventure 1.0
Woolworths Widget 1.0

Widgets

Aquarium 0.1
Exhibitions Widget 1.1
Matt Cutting Assistant 1.0
The Simpsons Quote Box 4.0

RESOURCES

Leopard training
Mail stationary
Royalty-free music

OTHER SOFTWARE

Games trials

Battlestations Midway 1.0.1
Death On The Nile 1.0
Righteous Kill 1.0
Scrapbook Paige 1.0
ToCA Race Driver 3

Recommended

Bento 2.0v2
DocHaven 3.0.2
DockChanger 1.7.3
iFuntastic 6.1b3
Live Interior 3D Pro 2.0.1
macVCR 2.1.5
Pagico 3.2.1.95b

Top freeware

Boxer 0.8
EverSave 1.0
Ghost 1.0
ImageOptim 1.0.5
MacTubes 2.0
PasswordVault Lite X 6.1
Plex 0.5.22
Region X 1.6
Screen Shades 1.0
TraffiX 2.0

READER OFFERS

Save and upgrade to Revolution Studio

If you're really enjoying programming using the full version of *Revolution Media* on this issue's disc and now crave more features, then we recommend you upgrade to *Revolution Studio* for just £117.50 instead of the usual £146.50 – you get to save £29 with this special offer!.

Upgrade to macVCR 2

To take advantage of an excellent 25% discount on the latest version of this great screen recording application, simply email Arten Science at **support@artenscience.com**, and details will be sent to you.

Save 75% with this DocHaven 3 offer

For a short time *DocHaven 3.0* is available for $20 (£13) (usually $80 (£53)) and your free *MacFormat DocHaven 2.0* licence can be added to your *DocHaven 3.0* purchase. To take advantage of this offer, simply visit the following website: **www.holymackerelsoftware.com/DocHaven/Store.html**

3 full programs!

Plus widgets, shareware, games, video tutorials & more

MacFormat Disc
Issue 203 | January 2009
Future MEDIA WITH PASSION
DVD ROM
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MAC203 DISC

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3 FULL PROGRAMS

Revolution Media 3.0
Full version of the easy Mac programming application

macVCR 1.0
Record movies of your on-screen actions and play them back

PLUS:
Demos of the latest Mac games, including
ToCA Race Driver 3 & much more!

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at **www.futurenet.co.uk/support**. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (**support@futurenet.co.uk**) or phone **01225 442244** and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

Made in the EU
MAC203 DISC

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MISSING YOUR DISC?
If your disc is missing, email **support@futurenet.co.uk** or phone 01225 442244

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iPhone 3Gblack £14.99 inc. vat
iPhone 3Gwhite £14.99 inc. vat

iSkin Revo2
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for iPhone 3G £24.98 inc. vat

Griffin Aerosport
Sports armband for iPod nano
also for iPod touch/iPhone
£19.99 inc. vat

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250GB £104.99 inc. vat
320GB£174.99 inc. vat

La Cie Quadra
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320GB £89.99 inc. vat
500Gb£119.99 inc. vat
750GB£145.00 inc. vat
1TB £174.99 inc. vat

G-Tech G-DriveQ
FireWire 400/800, USB2, eSATA
500GbB £140.14 inc. vat
750GB £188.56 inc. vat
1TB £253.93 inc. vat

G-Tech G-RAID2
FireWire 400/800, USB2
1TB £260.46 inc. vat
2TB £456.29 inc. vat

Western Digital MyPassport

These slender portable drives are simple to use, light and easy to carry. They require no power adapter as they are powered directly through the USB2.0 cable. An ideal partner for your MacBook or MacBook Pro. Available in a choice of three colours. Come complete with USB2.0 cable.

160GB	£55.99 inc. vat
320GB	£80.99 inc. vat

Western Digital MyBook

This elegant external hard drive, reminiscent of a book, is the perfect desktop solution to archive important digital documents, photos, or music. Connect two or more and they nest neatly together. Smart and energy efficient: Turns itself on and off with your computer.
USB2.0 interface. USB2.0 cable included

500GB	£74.99 inc. vat
1Tb	£139.94 inc. vat

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Ideal for singer songwriters
£69.99 inc. vat

M-Audio Fast track PRO
Professional USB audio interface.
2 Phantom powered inputs.
£149.99 inc.

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Condenser studio mics.
SE1000USB £119.99 inc. vat
SE1000XLR £109.99 inc. vat

M-Audio AV30
Entry level quality studio
reference monitors.
£79.99 inc. vat

KRK RP5 speakers
Pro quality Studio
reference monitors.
£229.99 inc. vat

Griffin iMic
USB audio interface.
Ideal for converting vinyl to MP3
£34.99 inc. vat

Griffin Guitar cable
Simple plug n play guitar input.
plugs into mic input on mac
£19.99 inc. vat

Stealth Plug Guitar
USB interface for guitar and bass.
Complete with amp modelling.
£69.99 inc. vat

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Extraordinary sonic ability, lavish build, stunning styling. One of the most impressive products we've seen in an age.

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3G
compat

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Solutions inc. is one of the most established and respected Apple UK partners with 15 years experience.